

Moscow orders republics to restore order

MOSCOW (R) — The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet called on the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan Wednesday to restore order in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and to protect the interests of all ethnic groups there. A strongly worded statement issued at the end of a special session on national problems in the region said the crisis had inflicted harm on the people of both republics and attempts to put pressure on the Soviet state would not be tolerated. The Presidium ordered the Soviet council of ministers to "work out all measures directed at deciding the immediate economic and social-cultural development of the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region." The meeting, which included Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other top leaders, called on Armenian and Azerbaijani officials to bring to "immediate accountability those who with their actions destabilised the situation." That statement appeared to indicate authorities would take action not only against those who have been arrested for violence in ethnic rioting, but also Armenian activists. Armenians held a series of large protests in February to demand that Nagorno-Karabakh be annexed from neighbouring Azerbaijan. Related story on page 8

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Egypt forwards draft on Gulf war

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismail Abdul Meguid said Wednesday that Egypt, along with several other Arab countries, has forwarded to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting a draft resolution on the Iran-Iraq war with a view to reaching a stand that would allow for initiating peace negotiations between the warring parties. Citing the "positive Iraqi stand" on the various peace calls, Abdul Meguid said Cairo supported the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. Meguid, who is heading his country's delegation to the meetings, told a press conference that only the U.N. had the right to reshuffle the order of the resolution. He was referring to Iran's demand that the resolution's order be changed before accepting it. Meguid said he hoped "the image would be clear in a day or two as to the proposed draft resolution Egypt had made." The Egyptian minister praised the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and drew a parallel between the uprising and the 1973 Arab-Israeli war in terms of its impact on the region. "The uprising has imposed itself on the region and its outcome has crystallised in new political moves," he said.

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Regent visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited a unit of the Third Royal Armoured Division. The Regent watched various exercises performed by the unit. Prince Hassan visited the unit, which is named after him, as part of its celebrations on the occasion of his birthday.

Arab team meets Genscher

ALGIERS (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met Wednesday with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kili to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, official sources said. At the request of the Arab committee of seven, Arab League representatives are meeting with permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The talks with Genscher, who also serves as president of the European Community's Council of Ministers, were the latest in a series. The Arab committee of seven includes Algeria, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Genscher arrived in Algeria Wednesday morning.

U.S., Egypt agree to closer arms ties

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Egypt have agreed on closer cooperation in arms development, raising Cairo to the same military partnership with Washington as Israel and NATO allies, Pentagon officials said Wednesday. The officials said Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and visiting Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala were to sign a memorandum of understanding.

Senior French official visiting Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior official of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) Party said Wednesday he was in Damascus to exchange views with Syrian officials. Jacques Cosciusko-Morizet, RPR national secretary for international relations, said he could not comment on speculation in Paris that his trip was a prelude to the release of French hostages in Lebanon.

U.S. to recall troops

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States plans to begin removing 3,200 U.S. troops from Honduras next Sunday or Monday after they complete joint exercises with Honduran forces, Reagan administration officials said Wednesday.

EC-GCC set to sign accord

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began talks Wednesday which could lead to a free trade pact between the two blocs, EC officials said. Negotiators from the community and the six states of the GCC were expected to conclude Thursday an agreement on stepping up scientific, industrial and political cooperation.

Nigeria beats Algeria

RABAT (R) — Nigeria beat Algeria 9-8 in a semi-final of the Africa Nations Cup after extra time and penalties Wednesday. The score was 1-1 after extra time (half time 1-0 for Nigeria). Scorers: Nigeria — Abderrazak Belgherbi (Algeria own goal) 39th minute. Algeria — Rachid Maatir (86th).

Israel confiscates journalists' film

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials said Wednesday that film confiscated from journalists after a Palestinian soldier was shot Sunday was needed for an investigation, Israel Radio reported. The statement from the office of the state prosecutor was in response to a high court interim order forbidding the army from developing the film.

OIC rallies behind S. Arabia against Israeli threats

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Islamic World rallied behind Saudi Arabia Wednesday in support of the kingdom against Israeli threats over the acquisition of intermediate-range missiles and voiced the readiness of Muslim countries to defend Saudi Arabia.

The foreign ministers of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), decided any attempt by Israel to violate international conventions by attacking Saudi Arabia.

A statement issued by the foreign ministers was very similar in wording to earlier declarations by OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada — and by Jordan and Syria, which said they would consider any attack on Saudi Arabia to be an attack on them.

Pirzada said earlier Wednesday: "I am sending a cable to King Fahd supporting his Muslim kingdom and our Saudi brothers against the Israeli threats."

Pirzada said the OIC members would support the Saudis "morally and, if necessary, militarily."

Saudi Arabia recently acquired Chinese CSS-2 missiles, which have a range of 3,500 kilometres.

They are capable of being fitted with nuclear warheads, but the Saudis have denied that this will be done.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that Israel and the United States were "making efforts to deal with" what he called the "grave development." He did not elaborate.

In Cairo, an official source said Egypt backed Saudi Arabia against any Israeli threat. The national Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted the source as saying Egypt condemned recent threats from Israel against Saudi Arabia.

"Egypt reiterates that it considers any aggression against our sister Saudi Arabia an aggression against itself that should be strongly confronted," the source said. "The aggressor must bear responsibility for this aggression."

Sharaa says Syrian reply to American Mideast peace plan will be questions

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria Wednesday appeared to be signalling a change in its earlier rejection of the new American proposal for

peace in the Middle East and leaving the door open for modifications in the plan by saying that it's reply to the plan will be presented in the form of "questions."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa said Syria was

sion."

Saudi speech

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told the conference Wednesday Saudi Arabia would temporarily limit the size of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Last year's Haj pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina was marred by bloody clashes between Saudi security forces and Iranian pilgrims in which at least 400 people were killed.

Prince Saud told the conference that the decision to set quotas on pilgrim numbers was taken in light of "current circumstances and the increasing number of visitors to the kingdom during the Haj."

He did not give details of the restrictions, but said they would be in force while a major programme to enlarge the two holy shrines and improve pilgrim facilities was carried out.

This year's Haj will start in mid-July.

After last July's bloodshed, Iran challenged the right of the Saudi royal family to guard the holy places.

Iran's delegate to the conference renewed the challenge in his speech to the OIC meeting.

"In accordance with Islamic rules and teachings, we declare that the pilgrimage area is for all Muslims and no-one has the right to rule it," Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al Tashkiri

Sharaa, speaking to reporters in an informal press conference at the residence of the Syrian ambassador to Jordan, said such peace should come only through an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The new American peace plan, presented to the leaders of Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Israel by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, provides for an international conference but states that the international powers attending it will not have any arbitration powers. Sharaa did not elaborate on what he meant by a "realistic" initiative but it was apparent that he was reiterating the Syrian demand that the Security Council members would have arbitration powers in the proposed international conference, and that any settlement should be based on Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders and realisation of the Palestinian people's right to statehood.

Sharaa pointed out that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has voiced vehement opposition to the Shultz plan, had not accepted the concept of an international conference. "Shamir has not accepted the idea," Sharaa said. "And (Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres) is only thinking of it as an umbrella for

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Pakistan: Soviets should not set terms for Afghan pullout

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Pakistan rejected suggestions Tuesday that it was delaying signing of an agreement at the U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks on ending the nine-year-old Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is not putting any new conditions on the table," said Mubashir Ull Haq, Pakistan's minister of commerce, at a press conference in Amman. "The Soviet Union should put no conditions before withdrawal. The (Soviet troops) entered the country without invitation. They should need no signature, no international permission before withdrawal," he said.

Haq said Islamabad was insisting on its demand that the Soviet Union halt all assistance to Kabul in return for Western undertakings to call off support for the

Afghan rebel movement, which is fighting a guerrilla war against successive Soviet-backed governments in Kabul.

Haq said Soviet insistence on continuing its aid to the Kabul government after American military supplies to the rebels ended meant disarming one side in the conflict.

He called for a simultaneous stoppage of arms supplies to both sides and commitments by outside powers not to send more weapons to Afghanistan after a settlement.

"If we enter an agreement with Afghanistan in Geneva it means setting up the Mujahideen (Afghan rebels) for slaughter," he asserted. "It means Pakistani recognition of a regime whose legitimacy has been challenged by the entire world community..."

According to Haq, who is leading

Turkish-Cypriot leader says U.N. plan is 'bottom line'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A United Nations plan unveiled in March 1986 for a settlement to the Cypriot problem remains the "bottom line" that the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus will accept, a senior Turkish-Cypriot leader said Monday.

Dr. Kenan Atakol, foreign minister and defence minister of the breakaway republic which is recognised only by Turkey, said the U.N. proposal for a "bi-communal, bi-zonal republic under one federal government" was the only solution that the Turkish Cypriots would agree to as the basis for a settlement to the conflict between the Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots which led to the creation of the Turkish-Cypriot republic in 1983.

Atakol asserted the Cypriot Akel (communist) party and the Edek (socialist) party which supported new president George Vassiliou in the elections, do not want a settlement to the conflict — at least not along the lines that would be acceptable to the Turkish Cypriots.

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Israeli jets raid Sidon; 15 killed or injured

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli jets raided Palestinian targets in southern Lebanon five times Wednesday, killing or wounding at least 15 people, police said.

Police said four planes fired at least 25 rockets and dropped time bombs over the hilltop villages of Abra, Bramiyeh, Sharhabil and Majdalayon near Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said the five consecutive air strikes within one hour targeted Palestinian bases of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC).

The planes also blasted Lebanese positions of the Ta'weed movement, led by Saeed Shaaban, as well as the Popular Liberation Army (PLA) which controls security in Sidon.

The sources said at least 15 Palestinians were killed or wounded in the attack, the third since March 12 and the fourth on Lebanese territory this year.

"They staged their fifth air raid as people gathered to rescue casualties from the previous strikes," one witness told Reuters.

Police said the pilots released air balloons to deflect heat-seeking SAM-7 missiles unleashed by resistance fighters.

Dozens of panic-stricken civilians from nearby villages fled to Sidon as the jets circled for at least an hour before heading back to Israel over the Mediterranean.

At least 22 Palestinians and Lebanese were killed in previous air strikes this year.

Missile hits Baghdad; 'tanker war' drags on

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran lobbed a long-range missile into the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, Wednesday as the two belligerent "war of the cities" and "tanker war" dragged on, claiming more civilian lives.

The missile, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported, crashed at 7:30 (0430 GMT) in a residential neighbourhood "killing and wounding civilians and destroying property."

The agency did not give an exact casualty count. It had acknowledged that Iraqi gunners fired a similar projectile into Tehran Tuesday.

Iranian gunboats set a Cypriot cargo ship ablaze in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, the 40th victim of the Gulf shipping war this year, regional shipping sources reported.

There was no immediate word of casualties as tugs raced through the gathering dusk to the burning 34,346-tonne bulk carrier

King calls on Pakistan to resume efforts to end Iran-Iraq conflict

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has called on Pakistan to resume its efforts to end the 7½-year-old Iran-Iraq war and continue its international contacts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and his wife Tuesday night, the King also paid tribute to Pakistan's pan-Islamic efforts and its support for Arab causes.

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech: "Under Your Excellency's leadership, Pakistan has demonstrated its adherence to the Islamic



His Majesty King Hussein with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in Islamabad (Petra photo)

Hundreds held in Israel's new anti-uprising mass arrest drive

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Wednesday detained hundreds of Arabs in a massive arrest campaign aimed at ending the 15-week-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza amid reports that the

Israeli demonstrations, was himself jailed without trial Wednesday, Israeli Radio said.

Qalqilya residents told Reuters correspondent Jeffrey Barbolet their town had been under curfew for more than a week and the army cut off electricity and water Tuesday.

The Haaretz newspaper reported that 300 of the 700 Palestinians arrested in the past week would be jailed without trial for six months.

Rabin told a parliamentary committee Tuesday that Israel

was holding 3,000 Palestinians but Palestinian sources said the figure was grossly underestimated.

"They are turning any space, any army facility they can find into a prison camp," one Palestinian source said.

"They are by no means just going after known political activists. They are taking people at random from the streets. Young men go out and simply don't come back and their mothers have no idea what has happened to them."

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian protester in the Jabatiya refugee camp, Shifa hospital officials said.

Another Palestinian from the Deir Al Balah refugee camp was in serious condition with beating injuries to his head, hospital officials said.

Reserve duty

Israel also said Wednesday it was considering extending military reserve duty on a voluntary basis to help quash the uprising.

"There is such a plan... to enroll reservists for longer periods as enlisted men. No decision has been taken but it is being actively considered," an army spokesman told Reuters.

He said that if the plan was approved, the army would ask reservists to volunteer for paid service in the occupied territories for periods of three to six months.

Financial 'loss'

New figures showed Monday Israel lost \$312.5 million as a result of the uprising.

Israel's 10-member inner cabinet was to meet later in the day to hear a report from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his talks in the United States.

Gad Yacobi, minister of economy, revealed that the uprising had cost Israel 500 million shekels, about \$312 million, in lost production, exports and added "security" costs, spokeswoman Naama Henig said

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Overwhelming U.N. vote censures U.S. over PLO

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

The General Assembly voted Wednesday overwhelmingly to condemn a U.S. move to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission at the United Nations, and PLO lawyers prepared to fight the U.S. move in court.

The assembly, in its second emergency session on the PLO, voted 148 to 2 to reject the U.S. action. The resolution also called on the United States to abide by the international U.N. headquarters treaty which allows U.N. missions to operate in New York.

The United States and Israel voted against the resolution, the third of its kind in three months. U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun, the deputy permanent representative, said the U.S. Justice Department was obliged by law to enforce "anti-terrorist" legislation, which would close the mission.

But Okun said the United States would take no further steps to close the mission until a court has ruled on the U.S. lawsuit, which was filed Tuesday in U.S. district court in Manhattan.

The PLO accused the United States Tuesday of engaging in "financial terrorism" by seeking a court order to close the mission and force the PLO to transfer its bank funds out of the United States.

"The only asset we have in this country is the building we live in. Maybe they want me to live on the street, but this would not be the first time the Palestinians become refugees," said Zehdi Labih Terzi, chief of the PLO mission.

Terzi has said that if the PLO mission is closed, he will have to be dragged away from the mission. If forced to move, he has said it will be to the United Nations on international territory, out of reach of U.S. marshals.

In 1973, PLO leader Yasser Arafat spent a night at the United Nations because he could not stay on U.S. territory.

Superpower summit set for May 29

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold their fourth summit from May 29 to June 2 in Moscow, Reagan announced Wednesday.

"We can announce that it has been agreed that the Moscow summit will be from May 29 to June 2," Reagan said during a brief appearance in the White House Rose Garden with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Reagan and Gorbachev, who met previously in Geneva, Reykjavik and last December, in Washington, have said they would like to sign in Moscow a sweeping treaty halving superpower strategic nuclear weapons.

Asked if such an accord could be finished by May, Reagan told reporters: "I have no way to answer that now."

But he said the two superpowers were seeking the cutoff.

"We have set the date and now we shall take care of good substance, of good content, for the summit," Shevardnadze said.

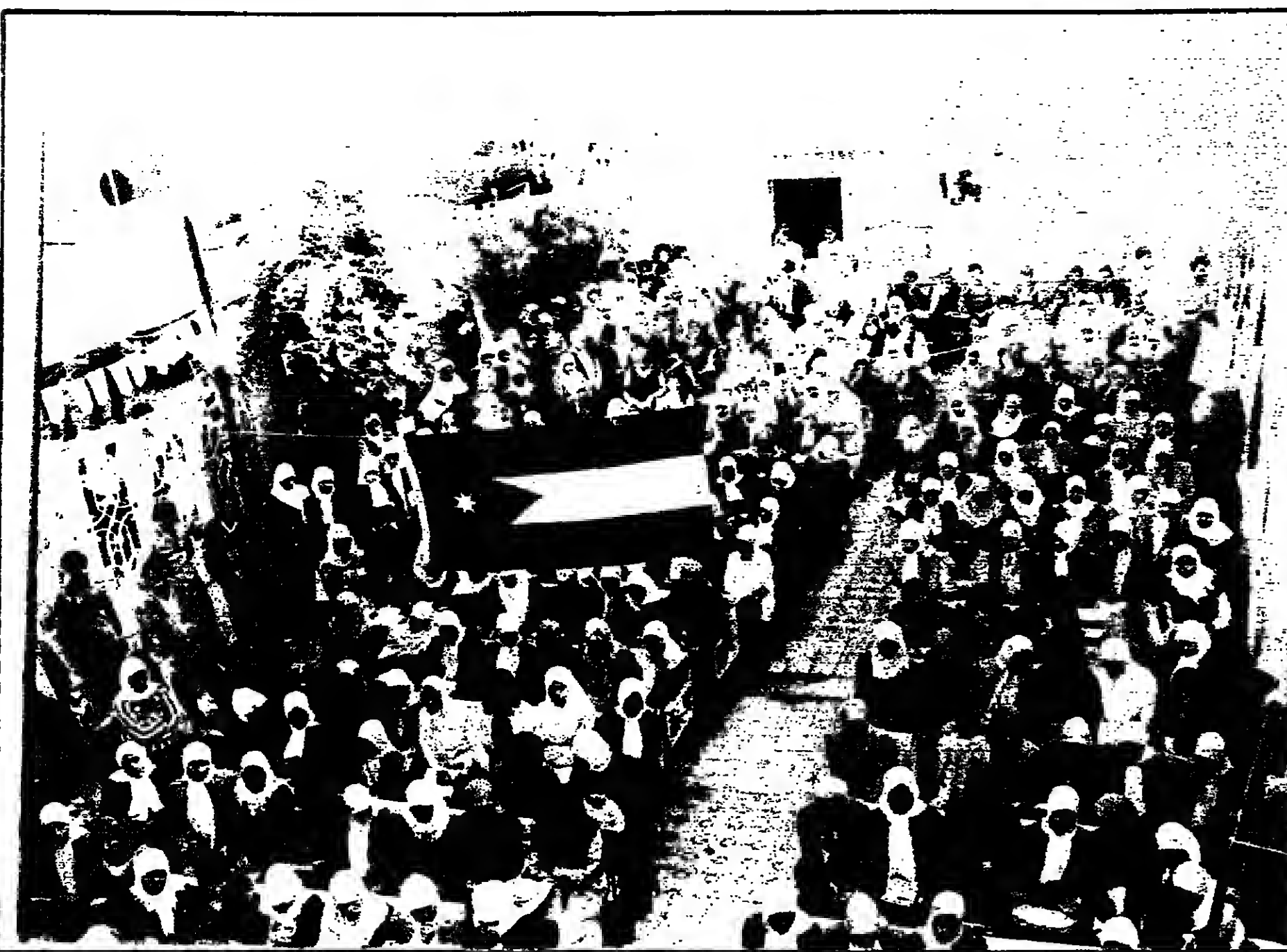
Asked if the Soviet army would withdraw from Afghanistan after an intervention of more than eight years, Shevardnadze simply waved and moved away from the microphones.

Earlier Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz discussed Moscow's plans for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

Shevardnadze was asked if U.S. and Soviet experts who Tuesday reviewed regional issues separate from the ministers solved the problem of Soviet aid to the Kabul regime — a key obstacle to an Afghan peace settlement.

"Without the ministers, the working group cannot decide anything," he said as he posed with Shultz at the State Department for photographers ahead of his session with Reagan.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said regional matters — particularly Afghanistan — were not considered at all by Shultz and Shevardnadze Tuesday but would top their Wednesday agenda.



Men and women: The moulding of sex roles

Najwa Najjar explores violence against women in the last of three articles. Part 2 appeared Wednesday.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

VICTIMS of violence, whether implicit or explicit, have expressed feelings of humiliation, anger, contempt, and depression when they were subjected to such abuse, indicated a pilot study on

violence against women conducted by Jordanian specialists in women issues. This "nerve wrecking" experience faces the majority of Jordanian women on daily basis. Researchers and experts on women's issues said that because the violence is in many cases "cloaked", many women

were unaware that they were being abused.

University of Jordan sociology professor, a member of the research group, Arwa Ameri outlined the forms of violence in a lecture held on the occasion of woman's week at Abdul

Hamid Shoman Library earlier this month. Women could be abused sexually, emotionally, and economically, through the use of the male privilege, threats, intimidation and isolation.

Often women and men do not regard these actions as "violent" due to their upbringing, which make these actions acceptable, according to the report. The basis of this theory is deep-rooted in the patriarchal system, a system marked by the supremacy of men.

Although this theory has been contested by men and women, the specialists the Jordan Times spoke to attribute women's oppression to the patriarchal system. Lawyer Lama Abu Odeh,

Ameri and a graduate student, all involved and concerned with women's issues, discussed the traditional roles for males and females within the patriarchal system.

"Children who are brought up under this kind of system must adhere to certain roles created for them by the society. The woman's role is limited to the home, the man's, to the world," said Ameri. In the first stage the female is prepared to become a wife. "She is taught marriage is the most

important and natural goal for females and her initial responsibility once she has found the 'right' man is to take care of the home and family, and to offer their services with a positive spirit," she said.

Training for marriage begins at home. "By obeying her father and brothers and by doing household chores," Ameri said. Meanwhile the male members of the family are raised to expect services from the woman as their right and that control/dependence is their natural role.

Ameri noted that in the second stage, after marriage, the situation does not change. "The woman continues sacrificing what she believes in and her ambitions for the man. The symbol of love is her submission, and her identity is only within the context of her family."

In general, female socialisation teaches women to believe that they are weak and in need of men. A graduate student told the Jordan Times: "Women have been brainwashed by the male-dominated society into thinking that they are incapable of doing anything. They see themselves as weak, because that is how men see them."

The patriarchal system and female oppression were related by the graduate student, Ameri and Abu Odeh. The three agreed that this system has created a male mentality which does not question man's power to control.

A controversial writer on the male supremacist ideology, Andrea Dworkin, has discussed in her book entitled, "Pronography: Men Possessing Women" the male mentality which gives men the right to physical strength as a means of power; the right to terrorise through various forms of violence; the right to label everything, including women; and the right to own, to money, and to sex. All of these rights, given men more power, to control, Dworkin asserted.

Supporting this theory, Ameri said: "The system aims to control women physically, mentally, socially, economically and politically through isolation and possession."

Abu Odeh said that upbringing reinforces man's "right" to possess women and his "right" to use violence against a woman if he feels she has "deviated" from her traditional role. "Male/female relationships tend to be possessive relationships. The woman is the man's possession. Rarely is marriage referred to as companionship. Therefore, if a man gets angry, he feels he can violate what he owns."

The economic factor Both Abu Odeh and Ameri believe the economic factor plays a major role in strengthening man's ownership of women. "Most women, especially in the Arab World are economically dependent on their husbands. In return for taking care of the family, doing the housework and pleasing him, the husband gives the wife food, drink, clothes and shelter," Ameri said.

Due to the woman's economic dependency, the relationship has been relegated to a master-slave level. "It is a relationship of exploitation and because of this, if a woman does not listen to a man then she is subject to all kinds of abuse, like slaves," she said.

Another reason behind male violence against women is what is often referred to as the "madonna/whore" syndrome. According to Ameri, Abu Odeh and the graduate student, men have been taught that there are two kinds of women: The female who abides by all the rules laid down to her by society, "the good girl," usually embodied in mothers and sisters; and the female who deviates from the traditional role set for her is "the bad girl," usually every other female.

Since "the bad girl" does not deserve the male's respect, then he can abuse her in whatever way suits him. On the other hand "the good girl" he owns, and therefore, he can behave with her in whatever way suits him, too.

"Unfortunately, many women see themselves as men see them," said the graduate student. This is why many women who have been violated do not even notice that an act of violence has been committed against them. "Women often feel that it was their fault that they were violated because they provoked the man. It is normal for men to be violent, and it is necessary to put up with it for the sake of the children," said Ameri.

To date there are no social institutions to protect or to offer counselling for Jordanian women who have been abused. Most of the younger victims have stated that they have turned to their families for safety, but a lot of the older women have remained silent. They fear family retaliation or more violence on the husband's part.

According to Abu Odeh there are Jordanian laws which protect individuals from violence. "It is within the woman's right to report incidents of battery and assault and to press charges," she said, adding that usually women do not report violence against

them because of the societal attitude on the subject.

A victim, who wanted to sue a male colleague for verbally abusing her, was discouraged by her family. "Scandal and shame was associated with my pressing charges on him. My family and relatives said that people would think that he had violated me in stronger ways than I take such a drastic measure of suing. Society looks at the violation of a woman as a violation of the male's honour, and tries to cover up," she said.

Economic independence? Although there are laws protecting women, economic dependency is a strong reason why women do not free themselves from abusive relationships. Ameri and Odeh suggest economic independence as a tool of liberation. "A woman is not brought up to realise all her potentials and to have other alternatives to marriage. Her main ambition is to be a housewife, unpaid. If she divorces, she has to go back to her father or brother, or to another husband. She continues being dependent on a male, and the relationship continues to be unbalanced. She must become economically independent," Ameri said.

The graduate student offered an alternative to complement women's economic independence as a means to end any form of violence used against them. "Women must understand that they are not weak or stupid, but that they are oppressed. They must refuse to accept the situation, and must do their best to make males aware of this oppression."

She believes that males suffer oppression as well. "Male's socialisation constricts individuality. They are taught to be aggressive and dominating (sometimes contrary to individual nature) and often unknowingly oppress women. Still, I do not condone them. I hold them responsible. But, we must understand we share the battle, tell men 'you treat me this way and it hurts me, and hurts you as well'."

To her self-realisation and assertion of independence, including economic independence, are the keys to free individual women from their oppression. However, for comprehensive change, the interviewees agreed that change must occur on all levels: Individually, in the family unit, in society at large, and on all institutional level. The change will be hastened once men begin to look at women as equal partners in life.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		21:05 Evening Show Contd.
Tel: 73111-19		21:55 News Summary
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:00 Evening Show Contd.
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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Country Music
12:30 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:50 News Summary
12:55 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 My Music
15:00 Country Hour
15:05 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:30 Newsweek
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE		06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Sportsweek
630, 720, 1522 KHz		06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News
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	 News Summary 07:30 Peebles' Choice
		07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek
		08:15 The World News 12:30 The World
		The Farming World 09:00 World News
		09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30
		Juke Box Dury 09:45 Network UK
		10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections
		10:30 Newsweek 10:30 Joe's Feet
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		Assignment 12:30 Junior 13:00 World News 13:09 News
		About Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25
		A Letter from England 13:30 Citizens
		13:40 World News 14:15 Football
		2 14:45 Sports Roundup 14:50 World
		News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary
		15:30 Network UK 15:45 Folk in
		Britain/Jazz Scene UK 16:00 Outlook
		16:10 Minute Music 16:15 Street
		17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 The
		Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News
		18:09 Commentary 18:15 Assignment
		18:45 The World Today 19:00 World
		News 19:09 A Letter from England
		19:15 Citizens 19:45 Sports Roundup
		20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Discovery 21:00
		Outlook: News Summary; 21:30 Stock
		Market Report 21:45 Here's Humph!
		22:00 World News 22:09 Twenty
		Hours: News Summary

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Jordan observes Meteorology Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday joined world nations in observing Meteorological Day, which is being held this year under the slogan of "Meteorology and Information".

The Department of Meteorology held an exhibition on the occasion, displaying equipment for forecasting the weather and items used in this service which benefits the public, airlines and telecommunications services.

On display also are maps, equipment that measure temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure and pollution in the atmosphere.

The exhibition was opened by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan who delivered a speech paying tribute to the Department of Meteorology for its services to the country.

The minister referred to the cloud seeding programme, undertaken by the department, which, he said, is a manifestation of the department's efficient employment of technological equipment.

The cloud seeding equipment, he said, were used this year on an experimental basis but they are useful in the future to increase rain on which Jordan's agricultural wealth depends.

Department Director Ali Abanda delivered a speech outlining the department's services, specially in providing information for farmers on the weather conditions.

Since the signing of documents on the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in Geneva, Abanda said, 160 nations have joined WMO to add their expertise to the general world efforts in meteorological affairs.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan speaks on the occasion of the World Meteorology Day. (below) The minister inspects the different equipment used by the Meteorological Department (Petra photos)



Fayez heads parliamentary delegation to Egypt

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez arrived here Wednesday on an official visit to Egypt, and talks with the Egyptian Peoples Council speaker and members.

In a statement at the airport, Fayez said the two sides will discuss urgent issues of concern to the Arab countries, they will examine bilateral parliamentary ties and the situation in the occupied

Arab territory in the light of the current Palestinian uprising there, in addition to the Gulf war and prospects for holding an international peace conference.

Fayez expressed hope that the two sides will arrive at fruitful results, benefiting the peoples of Egypt and Jordan.

The Egyptian Peoples Council Speaker Rifat Mahjoub welcomed Fayez and his accompanying delegation upon their arrival and said that the visit was within

the framework of the distinguished relationship between Egypt and Jordan.

Talks between parliamentary teams representing the two sides are in start at the Egyptian Peoples Council Thursday.

The Jordanian delegation which comprises 16 members are making the visit upon an invitation from Mahjoub.

Later Wednesday Fayez was received by Egyptian Prime Minister Ataf Sidki with whom he

reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territory.

Fayez spoke on Jordan's stand with regard to the Palestine question and voiced Jordan's continued coordination with Egypt in parliamentary affairs.

Fayez held separate meetings with Mahjoub and members of the People's Council to review Arab affairs and the developments in the occupied Arab territories.

2-day seminar aims to introduce innovation in educational system

AMMAN (Petra and J.T.) — A two-day National Seminar on Educational Innovation opened Wednesday at the Amman Hotel in Amman with the participation of 30 representatives from local educational institutions.

Two working papers from the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are to be examined, along with several proposals submitted by the participants during the sessions, a Ministry of Education official told the Jordan Times.

She said that the seminar, financed by UNESCO and organised by the Ministry of Education aims to coordinate work among national educational institutions towards introducing innovation in the Kingdom's educational systems.

Ministry of Education's Secretary General Radi Al Waqfi

opened the meetings on behalf of Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, outlining the importance of the innovation programmes for promoting education which, he said, is closely related to social and economic development.

Waqfi said that the seminar takes place as the country is involved in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the first national educational conference held in Amman last September, which aimed to overhaul the educational structure, its curricula, school textbooks, teaching methods and school administration.

The innovation programme

aims to bring about a qualitative improvement to education in the general sense, and to release the creative potential of all those involved in the educational process in Jordan.

Waqfi emphasised Jordan's support for and appreciation of UNESCO's role in cooperating with Jordan and other Arab countries for promoting education.

UNESCO delegate Abdul Wahid Yousef said that the innovation seminar will seek solutions of educational systems and explore better means for serving Arab social and economic objectives.

UNESCO role is confined to providing technical support in the fields of innovation throughout the Arab World and facilitating cooperation between the Arab states on the one hand, and between them and countries in other continents on the other.

Senior military and civil officials attended the opening session.

Abdul Wahid said. Another speaker was Dr. Izzat Jaradat from the Ministry of Education who said that the delegates will lay down new conceptions for innovation and development of education in Jordan.

Participants in the seminar, which was organised in cooperation with the Kuwait based Educational Programmes for Innovation and Development in Arab States (EPIDAS), come from the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Vocational Training Corporation, the Higher Council for Science and Technology, UNESCO and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

Senior military and civil officials attended the opening session.

GUVS honours Haj Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Wednesday held a reception party in honour of Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan in recognition of his support and backing for GUVS activities.

The reception was attended by Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat and prominent members of GUVS.

In a speech, on this occasion, GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib said that with support from Haj Hassan, GUVS promoted its activities and operations and with the result that at least JD 10 million of its funds are being invested in charity and voluntary services, and programmes on both banks of the River Jordan.

Hmoud inspects farming areas in Balqa

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Wednesday made an inspection tour of forest and range districts in Balqa Governorate, and urged farmers to plant more trees that are suitable for the area.

The minister said that rain in the present season has been plentiful and should guarantee the growth of all saplings.

The minister also called on

farmers to use automatic machinery more and more to ensure larger crops in bigger areas of land.

Agriculture Ministry Specialist Abdul Majid Abu Ruman presented a briefing on the ministry's afforestation projects on the slopes of Eera and Yaraqa hilly towns in the Balqa Governorate, and said that nearly 60,000

dunums of land have been planted with forest trees and stone-fruit trees.

The department of agriculture here is currently building an 80-kilometre stretch of agricultural road to help farmers transport their products, Abu Ruman said.

The minister was accompanied by senior officials.

Quiz Night to benefit the handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the Patronage of Their Highnesses Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda, British Airways and the Marriott Hotel are bringing "Quiz Night" to Jordan for the first time. The idea is to have fun and make money for charity. The Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped is to be beneficiary of what will be a very exciting and rewarding evening.

Now, over JD 10,000 worth of prizes, gifts and goodies will be on offer to be won or just given away.

"I have been delighted by the very generous response from so many contributors," said British Airways Manager Eric Burdon.

There are a few tables left, and participants can reserve by calling the Marriott Hotel or British Airways on 680055. Tickets are JD 12,000 for this fun-filled evening and the word is that everyone gets a prize. Unlimited beer/wine/soft drinks/supper and entry in fantastic door prizes are included in the price.

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Children demand more libraries with colourful books

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two little girls Wednesday demanded that adults listen to what children want and to provide them with their cultural needs "because there are as many of us as there are of you."

School children should have a weekly class where they go to a library and read books of their choice, and then discuss what they read with each other, suggested Rawan and Dima, adding that they prefer reading on their own rather than having a teacher read to them.

The children were speaking at the opening of a two-day seminar under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and attended by Hussein Foundation Director General In'am Al Mufli who deputised for the Queen.

Speaking at the seminar on children's literature in Jordan — held by the National Association for the Education of Children — Rawan, 9, and Dima, 7, demanded that there be more children's libraries with a more variety of books that are "colourful, comprehensible and useful."

"We like books that carry more good than evil so that other children don't imitate the evil. We like realistic stories so that we can believe them, as well as stories on animals and nature, and heroes," Rawan said, adding that "how to do" books and books on scientific inventions are also interesting to read.

On plays and theatre, the girls said children usually prefer short plays that discuss one important issue, "and if there should be singing, then the songs should be in the right place in the play, not stuck anywhere."

Because so many children are spending a lot of time watching television, Rawan and Dima suggested that there be less violent children shows such as many of the Japanese cartoons "because we would like to tell you that many children imitate the violence they see on TV." They added that they prefer entertaining cartoons and shows that are either in Arabic or translated into Arabic because "we are Arabs and not foreigners."

The opening of the seminar, held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, included a children's exhibition on books and educational games.

The first day of the seminar included seven working papers. The first paper, presented by Dr. Fakhri Tumalieh entitled "the tale in Jordanian children's literature," is about findings of a study conducted on thirteen different stories.

He gave brief analyses of the stories he had reviewed and concluded that the number of Jordanian children's story writers and books are still very limited. Because of this, he said, the number of children interested in reading outside the school has decreased tremendously. He also believes that there is not enough interest accorded to children's theatre in Jordan.

Tumalieh said the lack of critics reviewing children's books reflects a lack of interest in this field. He concluded that another major problem with children's literature in Jordan is that "for some reason or other, many serious writers are unable to publish what they write."

Children's theatre

Another paper was presented by Mohammad Malas on children's theatre. The speaker said that educational institutions should encourage children's theatre and make it a part of extra curricular activities at school.

He said that scripts should be written in simple classical Arabic, "because it is an opportunity for children to read and view plays within their understanding. The writers must take into consideration the different age groups regarding subjects, language and vocabulary that suit every age group," he said.

Malas added that it is the duty of the media to take more active interest in children's culture in general and theatre in particular.

"Adults should be aware of the importance and necessity of children's theatre," he noted.

Speaker Mohammad Thaher called on Arab writers' associations, literary institutions and specialists to make an inventory of children's books and evaluate

them. He said this should be done with the cooperation of children themselves.

Thaher also suggested that a committee of specialists should study all vocabulary used by children in the Arab World and come up with a children's dictionary.

He said university students should be assigned to research children's literature and libraries. The speaker added that specialised agencies should be established to supervise all literature pertaining to children.

Other working papers were presented at the first day of the seminar, including creativity and its conditions by Ahmad Abu Arkub, creative writing by Shehadeh Al Natour, elementary Arabic language textbooks by Amin Al Kachhen, and a paper on a format for the analysis of Arabic language books by Mohammad Meqdadi and Shadia Al Tal.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRINCESS BASMA: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, Wednesday attended a play entitled a Mother's Dream prepared by students at Al Ahliya School for Girls on the occasion of Mothers' Day.

PHILIPPINE ENVOY: Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nasereddine Al Assad Wednesday discussed with the Ambassador of the Philippines in Amman Juan Saez boosting bilateral relations in the field of higher education and increasing the number of Philippine students at Jordanian universities. The two sides also discussed the provision of Jordanian assistance in the setting up of the projected Islamic International University in the Philippines.

ISLAMIC LEADERS: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat met separately in his office Wednesday with heads of Islamic societies in Libya and the Comoro Islands, who are taking part in the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in Amman. The minister reviewed with them their countries' relations with Jordan and bilateral cooperation in religious affairs.

HAMZEH VISITS MA'AN: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh visited Ma'an Wednesday and opened a first aid and emergency department, and a section for forensic medicine at the Ma'an Government Hospital. In a speech on the occasion Hamzeh said the Health Ministry was trying to introduce all possible measures for providing primary health care to all governorates.

KARAMEH BATTLE MARKED: The Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in cooperation with the 12th Royal Mechanised Division held a ceremony here Wednesday to observe Al Karameh Battle anniversary. The ceremony included a photo exhibition opened by JUST President Kamel Ajlouni depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Later he opened a tournament organised with the Military Sports Federation and the Greater Amman Municipality.

HEARING-IMPAIRED: National Aid Fund (NAF) Director General Khalil Fa'ouri visited the Queen Alia Society for the Rehabilitation of the Hearing-Impaired and discussed with society members matters related to the rehabilitation of handicapped children. He also discussed cooperation between the two institutions in diagnosing the children's cases and providing hearing aids to them at NAF's expense.

WATER SPRING CLOSED: A water spring owned by the Schneller School in the Zarqa Governorate has been ordered closed by Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qataneh. A spokesman for the governor said that tests conducted on samples from the spring proved that the water was not fit for human consumption.

SPECIAL LICENCE CARDS: The Civil Defence Department (CDD) has issued special licence cards for vehicles that sell gas cylinders in the Kingdom. The cards show the car number, type and load capacity as well as the distributor and the region for distribution. A CDD official said other vehicles with no such cards will be banned from distributing gas cylinders since they would not be approved as providing safety measures in their operations.

MARQA IN IRAQ: The Jordan Radio, Television and Cinema Production Company Director Jawad Al Marqa left for Baghdad Wednesday to take part in a television festival.

MAJALI VISITS ZARQA: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali visited Zarqa Police Department Wednesday and inspected works currently underway for expanding the police department's facilities. The expansion projects fall within the PSD's programmes to set up new security centres around the Kingdom.

N. YEMENI DELEGATION: University of Jordan's Vice President Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra Wednesday met with an educational delegation from North Yemen and discussed with them cultural and academic relations between the university and institutions of higher education in North Yemen.

Tamimi highlights importance of Jerusalem's holy places

IRBID (Petra) — A seminar was held here Wednesday in observance of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast, during which the history of Jerusalem and the importance of its holy places were discussed by notable speakers.

The General Mufti of Jordan Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi outlined the history of the Holy City under the Romans, the Crusaders and others, projecting Al Haram

Al Sharif's importance to the Muslim people.

He also spoke about the Israa Wal Mi'raj and its religious significance for Islam.

With reference to the current situation in the occupied Arab territory, Sheikh Tamimi spoke in length about Israel's practices and its constant drive to uproot the Arab population and its acts of sacrilege at the holy shrines.



Jordanian artist holds exhibition in Washington

AMMAN (J.T.) — An art exhibition organised by a group of art lovers residing in Washington, D.C. is currently on display at the Addison-Ripley Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The show of works on paper by Jordanian artist Nabila Hilmi opened Tuesday, March 22.

Hilmi's vision is centred on the relationship of the inner to the outer world. She creates atmospheres where human beings interact with each other as well as with the objects around them. Those objects are charged with a life force equal to that of the humans.

To her, reality is seen as an addition of moments: Separate, intense, real and moving in time and space. The sense of movement as well as fragmentation of visible reality is paramount in Hilmi's work.

Hilmi uses collage, ink, water colours and mixed media to express her vision.

She was born in Jerusalem and spent her early years in Egypt and Lebanon. She earned a law degree from St. Joseph University in Beirut and a B.A. in Fine Arts (with high distinction) from Beirut University College. She further studied at the Art Students League in New York City. She now lives in Washington, D.C. and Amman.

The exhibition will continue until April 4.



The two children, Rawan and Dima, Wednesday speak during the opening of the seminar on children's literature in Jordan. (below) Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director General In'am Al Mufli visits the children's exhibition on books and educational games (Petra photos)



Continued from page one

Islamic World rallies behind Saudi Arabia against threats

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Saud also said Wednesday the OIC was extending serious efforts towards ending the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and also to extend assistance to the Arab League's efforts to end the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that heads of the OIC delegations had expressed all support for all measures being taken by Saudi Arabia to provide protection to the holy places in Mecca during the pilgrimage season.

In his address to the conference, Prince Saud urged Islamic countries to end their internal disputes and disunity and work together for serving Islamic causes.

He emphasized his country's support for convening an international conference to resolve the Palestine problem and end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Saud said Israel's intransigence was impeding all efforts for a just and durable settlement and "is bound to complicate the situation further."

He condemned Israel's practices against the Arab population as "terrorist actions that violate all international principles and laws."

He urged Muslim states to help convene an international conference on the Middle East.

Prince Saud said Iran was not satisfied with its confrontation with Iraq but "is trying to expand the circle of the war by attacking other countries in the Gulf region and endangering international navigation."

Prince Saud said his country "does not want to be hostile to Iran or any other Islamic state" but was trying to end the war by peaceful means.

At the outset of the Wednesday session, Pizarra announced that Saudi Arabia had donated \$10 million to organisations working for the OIC.

Tashkiri, the Iranian envoy, said Wednesday that Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza should emulate Iran's Islamic revolution.

Tashkiri said under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Iran destroyed the pro-U.S. regime of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi which he called a "nest of evil."

"Our children faced it like the children who are throwing stones in Palestine, who are facing the enemy with his American weapons," he said.

Arab League representative Adnan Omran paid tribute to the Palestinian uprising and echoed the Arab League's call for an international conference on the Middle East.

He said the Arab World refuses the idea of "partial settlements," which he said, "cannot meet the requirements of a durable peace."

Omran also voiced the Arab support for all efforts being made at the Islamic level for resolving the

Lebanese crisis and ending Israel's occupation of South Lebanon.

On the Gulf war, Omran referred to the Arab League's efforts to end the conflict and said that the Arabs seek the implementation of Resolution 598.

Omran voiced the Arab League's support for Saudi Arabia's efforts to provide protection to pilgrims and said that the pilgrimage rites should not be exploited for any other purpose than religious.

Libya
Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah Azouzi Al Talli said the Palestinian issue was one of the gravest issues in the world and that the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories were similar to those committed in South Africa. The racial discrimination, killing, and repressive measures in the occupied territories are identical with what is happening in South Africa, Talli said.

Talli also called on Iraq and Iran to put an end to their "destructive" war and said its continuation would undermine the Islamic Nation.

Qatar
Qatari Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Sheikh Hamad bin Suhaim Al Khalifa praised the speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein at the conference opening. He noted that the conference agenda had given prominence to challenges facing the Islamic Nation, especially the Palestinian uprising, the Iran-Iraq war and the Afghan problem.

Syria
Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharras said there was no doubt that the Palestinian uprising "has rewritten the illuminated pages of our nation's history... pages that were never erased from our memories in Syria, despite the dangerous decline in the Arab situation over the past few years and the distortion of vision and attempts to change facts and positions."

Sharras said that in the light of the uprising, "which is in unity with the continuing struggle in the Golan and South Lebanon against the Zionist enemy, we wonder how could any of us offer compromises to this enemy?"

The uprising "has emphasized to the whole world that there will be no peace except through ending the Israeli occupation in all Arab territories and that the Palestinian people will not accept anything short of ending the occupation and restoring all national rights."

The Syrian foreign minister questioned the ability of the United States to secure Palestinian national rights, "when it could not secure the existence of the PLO office in the United Nations."

Sharras said Israel could not fool anybody by claiming to seek peace. "None of the Israeli leaders is without a long list of not that make peace in the area impossible," he said.

North Yemen
North Yemeni Representative Mohammad Attar spoke about the situation in the occupied territories and the Gulf region, supporting efforts being made by the OIC for ending the Gulf conflict.

He said that his country supports efforts for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international conference.

Nigeria
The head of Nigerian delegation expressed his country's support for an international conference as "the only feasible means for finding a just settlement for the Palestine question." He also attacked South Africa for its apartheid policies and called on the international community to impose sanctions on the racist regime there.

Niger
The Nigeri representative condemned Israeli measures in the occupied territories and said that such measures represent a violation of U.N. and international charters.

He also voiced his country's back-

Bahrain
Bahraini Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa called on the Arab World to honour its collective responsibility towards important developments in the region, and warned from further complications that may arise from existing regional conflicts.

Referring to the situation in the occupied territories, Khalifa said that Palestinians in the occupied territories were exposed in an "unprecedented oppression, unwitnessed in the most racist and terrorist regimes in the world."

The foreign minister said the uprising had propelled the Palestine question towards a turning point in the course of the Palestinian struggle against occupation, increasing Palestinian people's self-confidence in their struggle for self-determination.

Khalifa described the Iran-Iraq war as "the epitome of tragedy plaguing the Islamic Nation." He said the continuation of the war was a violation of all principles and values dictated by religion. "All of us Muslims are responsible before God and our people to follow any course that may lead to a prompt end to this conflict."

Indonesia
The Indonesian delegate said that the Palestinian uprising was a threat to regional and international peace. Nana Sutrisna said the U.S. position towards the developments in the occupied territories was bound to "escalate the level of tension and obstruct efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement."

Nana called on OIC member states to intensify efforts towards reaching a peaceful comprehensive settlement to the Palestine problem through convening an international peace conference.

Chad
The head of the Chad delegation voiced his country's condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and voiced support for an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. He also supported Resolution 598 on the Gulf conflict. The delegate also condemned South Africa's racial discrimination policies.

Djibouti
The Djibouti delegate said the conference was held at a time when the Islamic Nation was facing "many problems and grave challenges which hinder Islamic solidarity."

He said the Palestinian problems were still the main issue of the Islamic Nation and all peace loving nations called for Islamic countries to support the Palestinian uprising and for all international efforts aimed at convening an international peace conference.

Lebanon
The Lebanese crisis, he said, was part of Israel's expansionist and aggressive schemes in Arab lands. He also expressed his country's concern over the Gulf war.

Malawi
The Malawi delegate called for Islamic unity to face "dangers and threats."

He expressed his country's deep regret over last year's riots in Mecca and voiced his country's support for Saudi measures to preserve security and order during the pilgrimage.

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Mauritania
The Mauritania delegate also noted that the conference was being held under "very critical circumstances and when the Islamic Nation is facing very grave challenges."

He called for strong Islamic support for the Palestinians in their "heroic uprising against Israel" and called for a unified Islamic stand to advance peace efforts in the Middle East.

He warned against the "grave consequences" of the Iran-Iraq war and praised Iraq's readiness to end the war. He said that the enforcement of Resolution 598 was the only way for ending the war.

He also expressed regret over last year's riots in Mecca.

Bulgarian message
Meanwhile, Bulgarian Muslim leaders have sent a message to the conference, denying charges of religious and ethnic persecution of Muslims in Bulgaria.

The message, which was channelled to the conference through the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, came a few hours after an OIC contact group submitted a report to the conference. The report spoke of "violations of the religious rights" of Muslims in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian message said: "We have learned that your meeting will also raise the question about the condition of Muslim Bulgarians. In this connection we would like to inform you that the Bulgarians professing the Muslim faith enjoy complete freedom as guaranteed under the constitution and the law of the land."

"We follow freely our sacred faith and carry out our rituals and traditions as the followers of any other religion do. All the mosques are functioning and the priests are carrying out their services regularly. There is no such a case of Muslims' rights to carry out religious services and rituals to be restricted in any way. There is no such a case of violation of mosques or other Muslim sacred places or the religious feelings of our brothers to be offended in any way. Nobody has been any one persecuted for his religion. The Bulgarian Muslims are enjoying full rights of Bulgarian citizens and are completely taking part in the social and economic life of the country."

"The authorities are not only undisturbed our religious activities but are assisting us in the maintenance and the repair of our numerous prayer homes that we are in disposition of."

"The statements that the Muslims were forced to restore their national names are false. This occurrence, which is met in many other countries, is existing in Bulgaria for decades and is carried out on their own free will."

Committees conclude work
OIC sub-committees on cultural, financial, economic, social, political and information affairs Wednesday concluded deliberations and endorsed resolutions to be included in the conference's final statement.

The political committee endorsed resolutions on the situation in the Horn of Africa, the 1986 April American attack on Libya, the situation in Afghanistan and the situation in South Africa.

The financial and administrative sub-committee endorsed measures related to a statistical research centre in Ankara and a technical training centre in Dacca and approved of budgets for Islamic cultural centres in Istanbul and Jeddah.

The economic sub-committee discussed topics related to the drought and famine affecting African nations, intra-Islamic trade, and promoting trade and economic cooperation.

The social and cultural sub-committee endorsed resolutions on the establishment of Islamic universities in Uganda, Malaysia and Bangladesh and an Islamic centre in Guinea Bissau.

The sub-committee voiced support for the work of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and studied and endorsed a working paper from Jordan on combating drugs.

ing and support of the Palestinian uprising and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He condemned the U.S. decision to close PLO missions in the U.N.

The Niger official appealed to Iran and Iraq to end their war and enforce Resolution 598.

Sudan
Sudan's Issa Mustafa Salameh noted the Palestinian issue had entered the "stage of uprising against the Israeli occupation."

Despite OIC efforts, he added, the Iran-Iraq war is still going on and "we should exert all efforts to find a peaceful settlement to this war. He deplored last year's riots in Mecca and voiced his country's support for Saudi measures to preserve security and order during the pilgrimage.

Somalia
Somalia's delegate noted the conference was held at a very "critical period dominated by regional and international conflict worldwide."

He hailed the Palestinian uprising and condemned Israel's brutal and inhuman measures.

He voiced support for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Iran-Iraq war, he said, benefited only the enemies of Islam.

South Africa
The head of the South African delegation voiced his country's condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and voiced support for an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. He also supported Resolution 598 on the Gulf conflict. The delegate also condemned South Africa's racial discrimination policies.

Tanzania
The Tanzanian delegate said the conference was held at a time when the Islamic Nation was facing "many problems and grave challenges which hinder Islamic solidarity."

He said the Palestinian problems were still the main issue of the Islamic Nation and all peace loving nations called for Islamic countries to support the Palestinian uprising and for all international efforts aimed at convening an international peace conference.

Tunisia
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Uganda
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SPLA accepts Red Cross relief plan

NAIROBI (R) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has formally accepted proposals for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to undertake relief operations in war-torn southern Sudan, the ICRC said Wednesday.

The ICRC was still waiting for the Sudanese government to accept in writing its proposals for relief work in the drought-stricken area. Paul Mettler, the ICRC representative in Kenya, told a press briefing.

"The ICRC not long ago submitted a plan of action to the government in Khartoum as well as to the SPLA, an offer to resume its services to the victims in southern Sudan, wherever they are and whoever they may be," Mettler said.

"The reaction by both sides has been positive, but we asked both sides to signal their acceptance to us in a more formal way. The SPLA has done so and we are now waiting for Khartoum," he added.

Mettler said the ICRC plan provided for Red Cross officials to conduct a medical and nutritional survey of southern Sudan, where up to three million people are estimated to be suffering from food shortages.

The ICRC would then draw up a plan of action which would allow ICRC free movement between government and rebel-held territory to bring assistance to people in their home areas, he added.

Foreign relief officials in Khartoum said Tuesday that a senior Sudanese government official would travel to Geneva shortly to complete details for the ICRC relief plan with ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga.

An estimated two million people have fled southern Sudan to escape the fighting, seeking food and refuge in the north of the country.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to establish a secular state in Sudan and give black Christians and animists from the south a bigger say in central government.

Pro-Iranian cleric urges kidnappings

BEIRUT (R) — A Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) cleric has called on his supporters to kidnap more Americans and accused U.N. peacekeeping troops in Lebanon of being a cover for U.S. spies.

In an interview with the Iranian-backed Al Wihda Al Islamiha weekly magazine, published and distributed in the Shiite Muslim suburbs and South Lebanon, Sheikh Subhi Tufaili was quoted as saying:

"If Muslims can hold the whole American tyrant regime they should do. They should not kidnap only one or two Americans because all the catastrophes that we suffered were caused by America."

Tufaili accused the nine-nation, 5,700-strong U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of being a cover for American intelligence.

SPLA accepts Red Cross relief plan

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Gemayel revises political proposals

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has sent Damascus a fresh set of proposals for solving the country's political impasse after Syria's allies in Lebanon rejected his earlier efforts.

Official sources said Wednesday an answer was expected next week from Damascus, Lebanon's main foreign broker, on its views about the new proposals submitted through U.S. diplomatic channels.

The United States, which fears that events in Lebanon could disrupt its peace drive in the Middle East, has been using its contacts with Syria to try to bring about inter-Lebanese reconciliation.

The independent Al Nahar newspaper Wednesday published a text of what it called "President Gemayel's March 7 paper" of new proposals which official sources described as "modified in words only, but not in principle."

The revised paper proposed the formation of a committee of cabinet members to draw up ideas within a set period of time on new reforms for abolishing confessionalism in Lebanon.

In his previous two proposals Gemayel suggested a 12-year period to end confessionalism in

the political system which gave the minority Christians more say in government.

Muslims, seeking to overturn the system, rejected Gemayel's earlier suggestions, saying it was not enough to achieve equal power sharing with the Christians who have dominated key state posts since the country's independence in 1943.

Lebanon's unwritten national covenant of 1943 shares out key posts among the main sects, stipulating the president should be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament a Shi'ite.

Palace officials said U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Kelly visited Gemayel Tuesday and restated Washington's interest in current three-way negotiations aimed at paving the way for presidential elections in August.

"We have not reached a blocked wall with Damascus and contacts are still underway, the sources quoted Kelly as saying.

agreements between some Arab states and Israel, Sharras said: "This is only one half of the statement."

"The other half is that how can Syria have a realistic plan for a peaceful and fair settlement of the Palestinian problem with guarantees for the Palestinian people's rights?"

Replying to questions on the Syrian role in Lebanon, Sharras said a solution would continue to elude the strife-torn country as long as "no common ground of understanding is reached among the various factions and no guarantees are provided for constitutional and political reform in the country."

He decided to say whom Syria would support in the forthcoming presidential elections in Lebanon.

On the Iran-Iraq War, Sharras would only say that Syria was concerned over "the developments in the war and anxious to contain its spillovers."

Answering a Jordan Times question over his recent statement that Britain did not see eye to eye with the Arabs over peace efforts, Sharras said he did not join an Arab League delegation which visited the British capital as part of the Arab effort to seek international support for the Palestinian uprising since Syria does not have diplomatic relations with Britain. However, he said Syria received reports indicating that "Britain did not deal seriously with the Arab proposals carried by the committee."

However, France, he said, "gave constructive and positive viewpoints over the proposed international conference and Israeli withdrawal of occupied territories."

He added that both the Soviet Union and China shared identical views with the Arabs.

Asked about Syrian-Iraqi relations after the extraordinary Arab Summit held in Amman last November, Sharras said: "There are no (reconciliation) efforts now." However, he said Syria was refraining from "replying to the hostile media campaign from Baghdad."

Israeli army detains hundreds of Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

In an underground leaflet circulated in Gaza, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced payments would be made to those who lost family members, property or jobs as a result of the clashes with Israeli soldiers.

"If the situation continues, it will have a significant impact on Israel's economy," she quoted Yacobi as telling Israeli economic writers.

King calls on Pakistan to resume Gulf peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

concept of solidarity and provided a categorical example of it when it embraced the millions of refugees from among our Muslim Afghan brethren and provided them with shelter, and assistance to mitigate their plight, so that the people of Pakistan may be said, to quote the well-known verse in the Koran "to prefer (the fugitive) above themselves though poverty be their lot." We are fully confident, Mr. President, that you will help the present international effort aimed at bringing about a successful solution to the conflict in Afghanistan in a manner that will safeguard its independence and restore its peace and stability so that Afghanistan may resume once again its progress towards prosperity and to take its natural place amidst

the Islamic Nation.

In the light of the tragic conditions imposed on the occupied Arab territories by the practices of the Zionist occupation under the very noses of all those who constantly brandish the slogans of "freedom" and "human rights," I appeal to Your Excellency to employ your good offices and your special relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to put an end to the bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq war, which has drained the two countries' human and natural resources, and weakened the Islamic community... Iran has left no venue for peace unexplored and no well-intentioned initiative unaccepted. But our brothers that rule in Tehran have blocked every avenue, contravened the decrees of Allah, and defied the will of the Ummah, in their insistence on ruinous policies and persistence in this position which has weakened the Muslims, threatened the stability and the security of the entire region, and opened the doors for foreign intervention.

President Zia spoke at the outset of the banquet, welcoming Their Majesties King and Queen and the delegation accompanying them. Zia underlined Pakistan's support for the Palestine cause and Jordan's endeavours for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Pakistan, he said, supports a peace settlement which can guarantee total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and supports the right of the Palestinian people's right in their land. Zia also voiced Pakistan's support for efforts being made to end the Gulf conflict and called on various parties to intensify efforts to achieve that goal.

On Wednesday King Hussein joined Pakistani leaders to review a military parade celebrating Pakistan's National Day.

The King and Queen arrived in Islamabad Tuesday.

Hundreds of schoolchildren chanted "Long live King Hussein" and "Long live Pakistan-Jordan friendship" and a 21-gun salute boomed out when they arrived.

"In view of this situation, I appeal again to your distinguished statesmanship, Mr. President, and to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to give this matter the utmost attention it deserves, and to resume your good efforts to persuade the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond favourably to the peace efforts, to abide by the will of the Ummah, and to accept Security Council Resolution 598 as the minimum basis for the process of a historic reconciliation between those two Muslim countries, which are linked together by common faith, neighbourhood, and the intertwined mutual interests of their respective peoples. Clearly, what is required is not putting an end to the war of cities and the attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, but putting an end to the war itself on the basis of good neighbourly relations. This is what the Arab leaders have unanimously agreed upon in their extraordinary summit held in Amman last November."

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U.N. survey shows slow growth in economies of USSR, East Europe

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Bloc economies, after expanding strongly in 1986, slowed down last year due mainly to a fall in farm output, weak demand for exports and lagging efficiency, United Nations economists said Wednesday.

The annual economic survey for 1987-88 by the secretariat of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) said the Soviet economy grew by 2.3 per cent in 1987, compared with 4.1 per cent in the previous year.

Performances varied among its six East European partners — Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania — but growth for this group as a whole dropped to 3.2 per cent from 4.6 per cent in 1986.

Bad weather considerably damaged crops in 1987 and, although farm production rose slightly in the Soviet Union, it dropped by 0.6 per cent in the other communist states taken together.

Demand for exports fell, and efforts to improve economic efficiency failed to produce expected gains, the survey said.

"There was no success in reducing energy and raw material consumption per unit of output as projected. The engineering branch was mainly responsible for shortfalls in the production and delivery of equipment which had been expected to boost efficiency in other branches," the survey said.

The outlook for the communist bloc in 1988 envisaged an increase in growth of a little more than three per cent, it added.

All seven countries would need to make big efforts to catch up lost momentum in the remaining years of their respective 1986-

1990 five-year economic plans, and some plan targets might be already out of reach, it added.

The 34-nation ECE, which groups all European nations together with the United States and Canada, said East-West trade stagnated in 1987. Future prospects remained dull, although economic reforms in Soviet Bloc states were aimed at increasing export incentives, the survey said.

The Soviet Union, seeking to compensate for collapsed prices for its oil, and for U.S. dollar depreciation, cut Western imports by 10 per cent in the first nine months of 1987, while increasing exports to the West, mainly crude oil and natural gas, by five per cent — far short of a 21 per cent jump in 1986.

Moscow's East European partners increased Western exports by only one per cent, and also prolonged import restraints.

Total Soviet hard currency

debt rose to about \$25 billion at the end of 1987 from \$23 billion in 1986, while that of its six allies climbed to an estimated \$75 billion from \$65 billion. Depreciation of the dollar exchange rate was the main reason for the increases, the survey said.

Balance of payments constraints, imposed by stagnating exports, present Eastern decision makers with several problems. On the one hand, boosting import growth would cause a deterioration in the current account and require the acceptance of a higher level of indebtedness. On the other hand, restraints on imports are likely to hinder domestic economic growth and the modernisation drive.

"The latter is of key importance if the East is to improve its export capacity, reverse the decline in its international competitiveness, and move towards the goal of currency convertibility," the survey said.

UNCTAD urges scrapping old ships, curbing new orders to ease surplus

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations agency said Tuesday that old ships should be scrapped and that governments should spend less money subsidising new construction to end a 10-year-old shipping surplus.

That surplus has kept freight rates low. But for many nations, building and operating ships have been keystones of their development programmes.

The world has about one-fifth more ships than it needs, and about 30 per cent too much shipbuilding capacity, according to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"We are urging states to give

incentives for scrapping old vessels, and to study viability and feasibility before giving subsidies for new construction," UNCTAD Shipping Committee Chairman Hugo Sommerkamp Bernales of Peru said.

But reaching that agreement was a major compromise, said a UNCTAD spokesman. Delegates from 86 nations met for nine days before agreeing on this programme.

Industrialised nations had retreated from their earlier position that UNCTAD, the main U.N. body concerned with Third World economic development, had no mandate to discuss ship-

building problems, the spokesman said.

Developing nations compromised by dropping an earlier call for formal guidelines of concerted action to cut the shipping surplus, the spokesman said.

The UNCTAD agreement asks countries to consider offering incentives for scrapping ships and recommended restraint in ordering new ships without viable commercial prospects.

It said it "recognises the close interrelationship between shipping and shipbuilding development, and urges governments, governmental institutions, banks, international and regional finan-

cial institutions and the shipbuilding industry to refrain from financing arrangements for ship purchases without studies concerning viable commercial employment prospects."

But a delegate from the International Chamber of Shipping, Chris Horrocks, told the session the UNCTAD assessment was unduly pessimistic.

"Not only have some freight rates improved and idle tonnage awaiting work decreased, but the availability of finance for new buildings and the very incautious and excessive subsidising of shipyards by governments is today greatly reduced," he added.

Mazda U.S. branch blasts American suppliers of parts

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (R) — The head of Mazda Motor Corp's U.S. subsidiary harshly criticised its American parts suppliers Tuesday, saying U.S.-made parts have three to five times more defects than their Japanese counterparts.

Osamu Nobuto, president of Mazda Motor Manufacturing USA Corp, told an auto industry conference here that about half the car parts Mazda uses to

assemble plants at its Flat Rock, Michigan, plant are American. He said he would like to raise that to 70 per cent.

"To the Japanese, defective parts are a kind of a shame and a sin. Americans believe it is inevitable to have defects — they take the attitude that if anything is wrong, we will replace it," he said at the International Automotive Industry Conference at the University of Michigan.

IMF advises South Korea to speed won's appreciation

SEOUL (AP) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission predicts a huge current account surplus for South Korea and is suggesting the country accelerate the revaluation of the won against the U.S. dollar, sources said Wednesday.

The government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the IMF team expected Korea to post a current account surplus of more than \$10 billion this year, higher than the \$7 billion envisaged by the government.

Officials at the finance ministry refused comment but said the

mission was to release a report on its consultations on the Korean economy before its departure in a week.

The sources said the mission also disagreed with the government on Korea's economic growth rate for this year, projecting 10 per cent growth in real terms.

The government economic management plan calls for eight per cent economic growth for the year.

Under an agreement with the United States, South Korea is committed to adjusting the value of the won through consultations with the IMF, which is seen as a neutral party.

Washington has been pressing Seoul to let the won appreciate rapidly, reportedly by as much as 15 per cent, and take other market measures to help reduce the U.S. trade deficit with Korea, which rose to nearly \$10 billion last year.

Officials of Arab Mining Company, IDB hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Mining Company Director General Thabet Al Taher met here Wednesday with Islamic Development Bank President Ahmad Ali to discuss cooperation between the bank and the company.

The company serves as a technical advisor to the bank in mining projects being implemented in Arab and Islamic countries.

Both the bank and the company have capital investments in several industrial and mining schemes among which are the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company near the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

Seminars in Zarqa review banking, agricultural policies

ZARQA (Petra) — A seminar was held here Wednesday to discuss loans given by banks to finance purchases of real estate and housing projects.

Delegates discussed relations between the banks and the commercial sector and means of offering credit facilities for the both aforementioned purposes.

Taking part in the seminar were the president and members of the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce, the regional director of the Housing Bank in Zarqa and other officials.

A seminar on agricultural development was also held in Zarqa Wednesday.

Participants, who included agricultural engineers, officials and specialists concerned with the development of Zarqa River, discussed agricultural patterns systems which aim to facilitate marketing of Jordanian crops.

Egyptian bankers to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from Egyptian banks is due here in the coming month to seek investments in major Egyptian projects and to orient Egyptian workers here on incentives and privileges offered by the Egyptian government to foreign capital investments in Egypt.

The Egyptian delegation will be meeting with Jordanian businessmen to discuss investments and economic cooperation.

Tabbaa meets ICTD director

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa met in his office Wednesday with Idris Alawi, the director of the Islamic Centre for Trade and Development (ICTD).

They discussed matters related to the Islamic trade exhibition which will be set up in Cairo in October, with the participation of Jordan and other Islamic countries.

Meeting in Amman

The two officials discussed means of promoting the sale of Islamic countries' products and the steps to be taken for a meeting which will be held next year in Amman to discuss this subject.

Matters related to the unification of custom tariffs and the removal of custom barriers among Islamic countries were also discussed at the meeting.

Nickel prices hit record high

LONDON (R) — Nickel prices jumped \$400 a tonne to a record \$19,200 in Lodon Wednesday, as stainless steel makers continued to snap up whatever metal they could find, traders said.

This heavy buying has boosted the prices of other anti-corrosion metals such as chrome and molybdenum, also used to make steel alloys.

Zinc prices shoot up

European producers of zinc, used to make galvanised steel among other processes, raised prices by \$50 to \$970 a tonne Wednesday. That is the highest European producer price since July, 1984.

Turkey hopes to pump water to Arab states

BAHRAIN (R) — An ambitious project to pump drinking water from Turkey to the Middle East and Gulf is drawing positive responses from Arab states, a senior Turkish official said Tuesday.

But the official added that on top of the interest, government decisions were needed to get the project started.

The project, dubbed the "peace pipeline," aims to pump six million cubic metres of water daily from Turkey by pipelines to Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

A group of Turkish officials are touring Gulf states to promote the project and encourage a full feasibility study.

"In the countries we visited so far, the officials expressed great interest and I am very hopeful for the future of the project," Naci Utkan, deputy director general of economic affairs at the Turkish foreign ministry told Reuters.

He said that Turkey had contacted Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain so far this year and the group would also travel to Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

"Turkey feels that if the coun-

tries in the region are linked with economic ties like this pipeline, this would help promote peace as well as boosting economic growth and welfare," Utkan said.

"Turkey is committed to the project, but all depends on the political decisions at government level in these countries."

The project, first mooted in 1986, involves pumping water from the southern Turkish rivers of Seyhan and Ceyhan with two pipelines — one 2,700 kilometres long to the west coast of Saudi Arabia and another 3,900 kilometres to Oman.

Construction is estimated to take eight to 10 years and officials have quoted the cost at up to \$21 billion.

Utkan said with the initial approval of all states, a full feasibility study would be conducted by the U.S. Brown and Root Company to determine technical details and the price.

"Financing of the project would be discussed after the feasibility study is conducted. A consortium of states and financial institutions is necessary to tackle such a huge project," he said.

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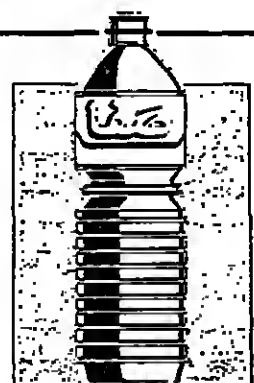
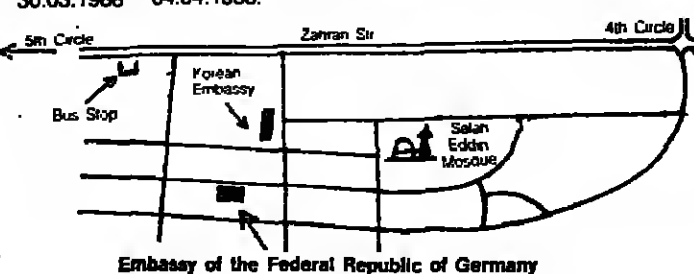
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The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

as well as the Consular Section will be operating from new premises on Jabal Amman, 4th Circle (P.O. Box 183, Tel. No. 689351, Consular Section: 689481) with effect from 05.04.1988. The embassy will be closed for visitors during the period 28.03.1988 - 04.04.1988, whereas the Consular Section will be closed for visitors during the period 30.03.1988 - 04.04.1988.



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India will not play against Israel

NEW DELHI (R) — India will not play its scheduled Davis Cup tennis tie against Israel in Tel Aviv to protest against the Israeli atrocities on the Palestinian people.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told parliament Wednesday that India had played sports fixtures against Israel in the past and would continue to play in the future, but a government spokesman added that a "principled" decision had been made on this occasion because of events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

India, beaten finalists in the 1987 Davis Cup, lost to Yugoslavia in the first round of this year's competition and was due to play Israel in Tel Aviv from April 7-9 in a world group relegation playoff.

The organisers had earlier refused an Indian request to shift the tie to a neutral venue.

By refusing to play, India will automatically be relegated to the Asian regional group.

Government spokesman K.R. Narayanan said India, a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, had taken the decision alone and before receiving a memorandum from Arab ambassadors in New Delhi.

But he added that the decision was consistent with Indian policy and had been appreciated by the Arab countries.

In London, a spokeswoman for the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said under Davis Cup rules India's refusal to play the tie would bring a suspension from the competition for 1989, and relegation to the Asian zone in 1990.

The text of the statement to parliament by K.R. Narayanan, minister of state for science and technology, was as follows:

"(The Indian) government have consistently supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to an independent state in their homeland."

"Government have been deeply concerned by and have condemned the brutal repression by the Israeli authorities of unarmed Palestinians in the occupied territories."

"Consistent with India's solidarity with the Palestinian cause, India will not play Israel in the Davis Cup tie match scheduled to be held in Tel Aviv in April."

Fay takes final look at New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Michael Fay gazed at his new America's Cup yacht New Zealand and smiled a satisfied smile.

The 90-foot (27-metre) waterline challenger for yachting's biggest prize is to be officially launched Sunday with much pomp and ceremony.

However, there was little ceremony Wednesday as Fay inspected the boat along with New Zealand governor-general Sir Peter Rees.

Fay, a merchant banker, arrived in a tiny tender from his offices across Auckland harbour, took off his jacket and began looking closely at the progress that has been made on the boat.

The crew, many stripped to the waist, all but ignored their boss and continued working industriously.

The yacht, which was built in 24 weeks, is to sail against the San Diego Yacht Club's defender in a one-on-one series for the cup off the California Coast in September.

An Associated Press reporter and photographer were the only members of the news media allowed into the strict security of Devonport naval base to watch final preparations.

"You forget the magnitude of this sometimes," said Fay, as he stared at the huge mast.

Auckland, often called the "city of sails" because of its natives' love of sailing, is preparing a huge party to celebrate the official launching of New Zealand.

The launch festivities will feature a run expected to attract 50,000 contestants and a one-hour ceremony that will be televised live in New Zealand, Australia and the United States, officials said.

A Salamanazar, a nine-litre (quart) bottle of champagne, will be used to christen the boat.

Thousand of small craft are expected to dot Auckland Harbour for the launch, while jazz bands are to play at the quay.

Also planned are aerobic displays and traditional New Zealand Maori war dances.

The New Zealand, constructed of a carbon compound used in the aerospace industry, weighs about the same as a traditional 12-metre class America's Cup yacht, but has three times the surface area.

Fay's last cup challenger, Kiwi Magic, lost to Dennis Conner's San Diego Yacht Club entry Stars and Stripes in the Challenger finals off Fremantle, Australia, last year.

Fay's Mercury Bay Boating Club forced the SDYC into a early defence of the cup with a legal challenge based on a literal interpretation of the deed of gift, a 100-year-old document that governs the competition.

A U.S. court ruled last year in favour of Fay's challenge for a big boat competition in 1988, scuttling plans for a 1991 regatta in 12-metre yachts, the class that has been used to decide the America's Cup for the past 30 years.

Evert advances to Players semifinals

KEY BISCAINE, Florida (R) — Second-seeded American Chris Evert, 33, survived a two-and-a-half-hour struggle with fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia to join three teenagers in the semifinals of the \$2.1 million International Players Championships Tuesday.

Evert came back after dropping a thrilling and emotionally draining first set tiebreak 8-10 to beat Sukova 6-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Eighteen-year-old world number one Steffi Graf, the top seed and defending champion, powered her way past fellow West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-3, 6-1 in a quarter-final earlier Tuesday.

Graf's semifinal opponent will be 18-year-old Stephanie Rehe, who rallied to upset ninth-seeded fellow American Barbara Potter, a left-handed serve-volleyer, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Evert will play 16-year-old local favourite Mary Jo Fernandez. The 15th-seeded Fernandez eliminated unseeded South African Elina Reinach 6-2, 6-3 Tuesday afternoon.

Evert, who had lost to Sukova in their previous two meetings, fought hard from the baseline in the first set with the players exchanging breaks in the fifth and sixth games.

Sukova mixed her shots well and changed the pace often to keep the second seed guessing. Evert took a 6-4 lead in the tiebreak, but Sukova saved two set points and took a 7-6 lead.

Evert then saved a set point with a stunning backhand lob to the baseline.

Sukova fought off a third set point before she finally seized the tiebreak 10-8 with an ace on her second set point.

The intensity of the struggle continued in the second set which Evert took with breaks in the seventh and 11th games.

Sukova seemed to lose some spirit in the third set, dropping serve to trail 3-2 as Evert retrieved a series of apparent winners to take the fifth game with a blazing backhand pass on the run.

Evert held on to that advantage and served out the match when Sukova missed a forehand deep.

"The umpire and linespeople weren't fair at all," a teary-eyed Sukova complained after the match.

"At crucial times in the match, they supported her 100 hundred per cent," she said.

Evert disagreed.

"I thought the officiating was okay," Evert said. "Bad calls never turned the match around. It was a good quality match and I just gutted it out."

Sukova fought off a third set point before she finally seized the tiebreak 10-8 with an ace on her second set point.

The intensity of the struggle continued in the second set which Evert took with breaks in the seventh and 11th games.

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Olympic champion Boitano peaks to stay on top

BUDAPEST (AP) — Olympic champion Brian Boitano takes the ice Wednesday for the World Figure-skating Championships and has no trouble championing himself.

Boitano, who won the gold medal at the 1984 Winter Olympics, where he won the gold medal.

However, American pair champions Jill Watson and Peter Oppegard are in a dogfight to stay at the level they showed at the Olympics, where they gained the bronze medal.

They were in fourth place following the pairs short programme heading into Wednesday night's final portion.

Boitano starts the compulsory figures of the men's event where he is out to regain the world title.

He won the crown in 1986, then lost it to Canadian Brian Orser.

"I don't have any trouble peaking for this again. I have peaked as many as four times in other years," Boitano said.

"In fact I insist on a peak every day in practice and try to insist on a programme like I did at the Olympics."

At the Olympics, Boitano skated a perfect programme to win the "battle of the brains," a term that Boitano has grown weary of.

"After two weeks of the 'battle of the brains' at the Olympics, I think people must be tired of it," Boitano said.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There may be many delays and obstacles which will interfere with your progress, so deal with them calmly and maintain an optimistic attitude. Handle your family and property matters sensibly.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't let an out-of-town matter keep you from following through with plans you have already made. Enjoy the company of your friends tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use special care in handling financial and property matters today, and enjoy a relaxing hobby with some of your friends tonight.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study the position of an associate before making any changes. If reason is used on both sides, the situation could be saved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't try to push a co-worker into making an unnecessary quick decision. Don't allow any delays to impede your progress.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You may be disappointed by a friend today, but tonight should be a very romantic time for you. Be sure to drive with great care this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

Forget your home worries for a while, and be with friends who are cheerful and will lift your spirits. Show more affection for your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan your schedule this morning so you will have time to handle both personal and business affairs. Tonight is a good time for entertaining.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you expect others to keep their promises to you, be sure to do the same for them. You can make a valuable new friend today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't allow an acquaintance to deter your progress in business, but be tactful with this person. Have a romantic evening with your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your work may seem endless today, but persevere and get it done. A sensitive friend can make your evening happy and constructive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This is a good day to give your full attention to your work, so delay that amusement you had planned. Clear up a spat with a co-worker.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get out into the world early today and accomplish a great deal. This will help you to forget about that annoying situation at home for now.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will run into many delaying problems if you are overly-sensitive to a remark from a co-worker, so just let criticism roll off your back. You may have to handle some home and family problems this evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You may be confused about practical affairs this morning, so handle them carefully. Invite some interesting friends into your home tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't get involved in an out-of-town matter, or you will become terribly confused. Finish up any important reports or statements.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may find it difficult to keep a promise you have made, so try to arrange a postponement. Don't let your mate's mood confuse you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Instead of letting an older person impose his views on you, follow your own ideas. Don't get involved in any arguments tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Be very conscientious in handling your work today, and gain some fine benefits. Try to establish better relations with your co-workers.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) This is not a good day to take any risks

which could put you behind the eight ball. Stick to the tried-and-true methods in your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can ask a superior for a favor and get it without any trouble after "lunch" today. Get busy with taking care of an important credit matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan a trip to see a family friend who means much to you, so he or she will appreciate it and the change of pace will do you good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your financial situation is in a very delicate condition, so get some advice from an expert before you start trying to change it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to create a more cooperative atmosphere at your workplace, and you can all become much more efficient and successful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This morning may start rather slowly, but you can accomplish a great deal today. Be helpful if your co-workers are in doubt.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be in doubt about trying to get your talents across to others this morning, but you can succeed with a little help from your good friends.

Maradona to play in W. Germany

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine star Diego Maradona will play with the world champion national soccer squad in a four-way tournament in West Germany beginning later this month, coach Carlos Bilardo said Tuesday.

Bilardo said Maradona, the team captain, and defender Jose Luis Brown had confirmed that they would play in the tournament with West Germany, the Soviet Union and Sweden.

The coach said he would name the rest of the team Wednesday night after local league matches.

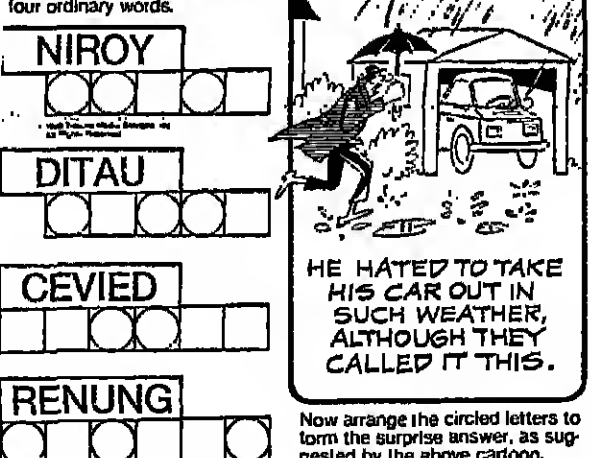
He said his side would include most of the players from Argentina's 1986 World Cup squad although forward Jorge Valdano and midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, both playing for foreign clubs, would not be available.



"New video game! Every time the bank screws up your account, you get to blow the place up!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOKES IMPEL BALLET CANKER

Answer: He is wearing a nice new suit but his dog only likes this "PANTS"

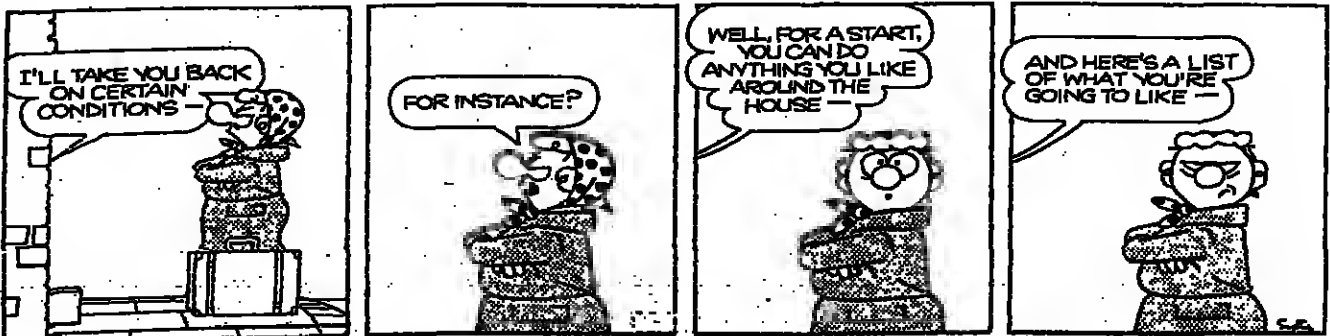
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE POWER OF THE 3-3 FIT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 5
♥ 10 7 4
♦ A J 9 7
♣ J 10 5

WEST
♠ Q 7 3
♥ A K Q 8 2
♦ A 2
♣ 9 4 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ J 9 5
♦ 10 8 5
♣ Q 8 6

SOUTH
♠ J 10 9
♥ 6 3
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ A K 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

With five-card majors becoming the norm, we recall fondly that the late Adam Meredith, one of the all-time greats, was a proponent of opening three-card majors, especially in spades. This hand from a pair event illustrates what can happen if you follow that style.

The one-spade opening bid was typical Meredith. After North cue-bid, South had no option but to introduce one of his minor suits, and he had nowhere to go when North

corrected to four spades. He could only hope his partner would produce at least four cards in the suit.

West attacked with three rounds of hearts. Declarer did not like his chances much, but he went for broke. He ruffed the third heart and successfully ran the jack of trumps.

When both defenders followed to the next two rounds of trumps, there was a gleam of light. Now all declarer needed was a successful club finesse and for East to have the only trump left in the game.

Declarer crossed to the table with a diamond and led the jack of clubs for a finesse. When that won, he reverted to diamonds. Since East had the remaining trump and was out of hearts, declarer could lose only one more trick and the contract was home with the help of two finesses, a 4-3 trump split and a heart position which could be expected from the bidding.

Not everyone bid to game on the North-South cards, and those who did played in diamonds for a score of 400. Our declarer collected 420, for an absolute top on the board.

Now we are not recommending three-card majors as the wave of the future. But "a touch of Meredith" now and then certainly does add a bit of spice to the game.

WEEK END CROSSWORD

WELL-SEASONED

By Lara Alexander

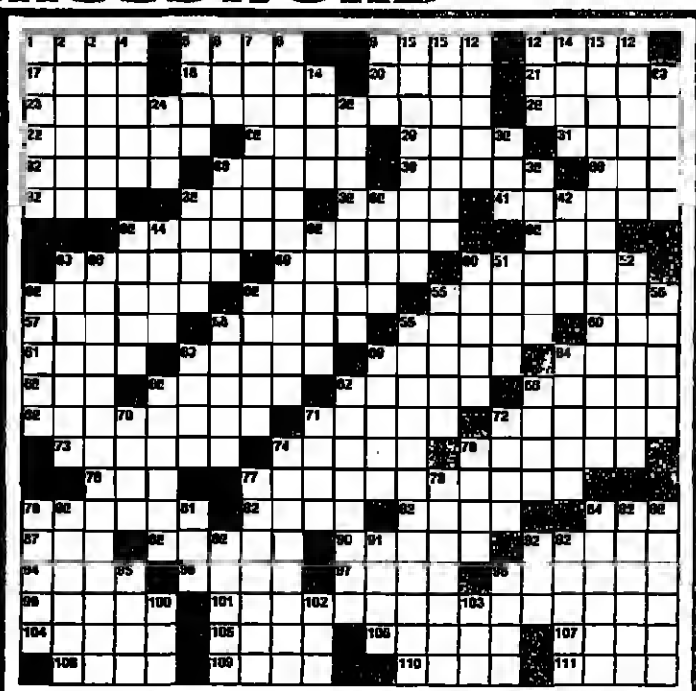
ACROSS

- 1 Acidity
- 2 Afterward
- 3 OT prophet
- 4 Once, once
- 5 Two
- 6 Hung sheep
- 7 dog
- 8 Enthusiasm
- 9 Drink too much
- 10 O'Toole movie
- 11 Sled
- 12 Soften
- 13 Get or Froberg
- 14 Soviet river
- 15 Baseball glove
- 16 Rugged ridge
- 17 Sealings
- 18 Speedy
- 19 Maiden name
- 20 word
- 21 On the other hand

- 22 Yoke
- 23 Hold back
- 24 Meat patty
- 25 Kind of rifle
- 26 Tangle shot
- 27 Bow
- 28 Assuage
- 29 Huckle back
- 30 Tattered
- 31 Dental tool
- 32 Bad marks
- 33 Modern
- 34 one's time
- 35 Was
- 36 Rhythmic
- 37 Uncomfortable
- 38 Gun go
- 39 Placid
- 40 Battered
- 41 Relieves
- 42 Chin, gelatin
- 43 Summer drink
- 44 Martin Van

- 45 Architectural
- 46 Pandant
- 47 Slowly
- 48 Selected in a way
- 49 Crane (gray bird)
- 50 Stupor
- 51 Be relevant
- 52 Witch trial town
- 53 Mexican eq.
- 54 Modern
- 55 pref.
- 56 Motor
- 57 Rhythmic
- 58 Bilingual
- 59 preposition
- 60 Battered
- 61 Rusted
- 62 long, vita
- 63 drive
- 64 Min

- 65 Parliament
- 66 Island
- 67 Avatar of Vishnu
- 68 Karoline
- 69 Cheese from Holland
- 70 Be relevant
- 71 Witch trial town
- 72 Mexican eq.
- 73 Modern
- 74 pref.
- 75 Motor
- 76 Rhythmic
- 77 Bilingual
- 78 preposition
- 79 Battered
- 80 Rusted
- 81 long, vita
- 82 drive
- 83 Min



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Baseball's baseball was banned in Boston. It wasn't baked in a brown crock.
2. A medley of stock market gyrations is not for the aged or faint of heart stockholder.
3. Hip espionage agent went under cover to discover who-did-it.
4. Locksmith sells much needed key to lucky soft with new lock.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ACM AT JADEMSKOO, YK VCDZ SKUL ILACRYM CJ OCHY HASMLAUKLOEND MAJEHO NM MYK VESSEL MNIDK NO TALKERS JADENZ.

—By Otis A. Fortenberry

2. IYUFN GRAPH DUHICKE RUN IYUHN GRANK US UBAUST UGW OPRAW DUHUKYS LO PATCH USW ILPLYE.

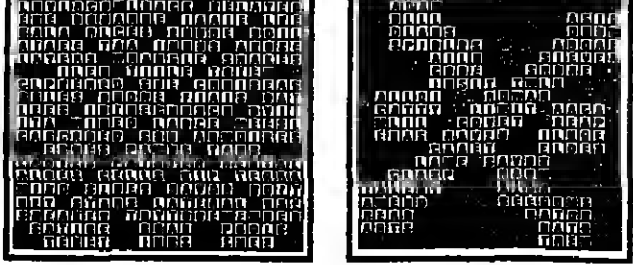
—By Les Sherry

3. BUCKML PILFH EH DUMR SPY LAXEUPIL SPA PKXYLQLHBLR KZ QLPBZ DUCHFLY ENFLMMEILHDL PMMZ.

—By Ed Huddleston

4. NMYZ INGRACE ELBA RE ILYCYZ RE JRMVJE.

—By Barbara J. Ragg



U.S. threatens new moves aimed at ousting Noriega

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is holding out the threat of more economic sanctions to help oust Panamanian military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega as a general strike grips the strategic Central American nation.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater stressed to reporters Tuesday that no new decisions were pending on tightening the U.S. financial squeeze on Panama as he hailed a strike that has virtually shut down the country's economy.

But he also said it pains to point out that Washington had more economic weapons in its arsenal, which he would not reveal, to get rid of a man indicted in two U.S. courts on drug-running charges.

"We continue to consider trade sanctions and other options," he said after brusquely dismissing Noriega's conditional offer to retire as head of the Panamanian Defence Force (PDF).

"Such a step would leave Noriega in actual control of the Panamanian Defence Forces," Fitzwater said.

'Fox out of the hen house'

"The proposal is like getting the fox out of the hen house, then giving him quarters next door," he added.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said Washington

still believed the only solution to the Panamanian crisis was for Noriega to leave the country and that it was only a question of time before he did so.

The officials said Washington was exerting diplomatic pressure on other countries not to extend loans to the Noriega regime, strapped for cash because of a U.S. clamp on the flow of dollars Panama uses as its national currency.

In addition to its economic squeeze, Washington also appears to be encouraging Noriega's junior officers to oust him. Fitzwater Tuesday repeated that U.S. relations with the defence force would be fine once Noriega left.

He did not answer directly when asked if Washington was encouraging another coup attempt in Panama. "We want to make it clear that our disengagement with Noriega does not extend to the institution," of the PDF was all he would say.

According to a participant in an abortive coup against Noriega last week, the Panamanian leader

has gone to extraordinary lengths to undercut the U.S. financial squeeze he says is part of a Washington-engineered plot to renege on its treaty commitment to hand over control of the Panama Canal at the end of 1990.

Major Augusto Villalaz told a Washington news conference he flew to Cuba two weeks ago on Noriega's orders to pick up a Cuban arms shipment along with \$50 million in cash from Libya.

After waiting several hours, he said he was ordered to return to Panama without the money.

Inducement

In another development, the Associated Press reported that officials in Washington said the U.S. government, as an inducement to Noriega to leave his homeland, offered to fly him into exile and to allow family and friends to accompany him.

The proposal was made last week when Noriega met with two State Department envoys who encouraged him to step down as commander of Panama's Defence Forces and to accept a Spanish offer of political exile, the officials, who asked not to be named, said Tuesday.

But Noriega told the envoys he was not willing to accept any arrangement that involves his departure from Panama.

Sandinista concession helps peace talks

SAPOA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Nicaragua's Sandinista government and U.S.-backed contra rebels were set to move into their third day of talks Wednesday after prospects for a ceasefire were brightened by a key government concession.

The Sandinista delegation offered to free political prisoners in proportion to the number of rebels who lay down their arms and return to civilian life, sources close to the negotiations said after Tuesday's session.

The offer added to the conciliatory attitude taken by both sides after they agreed to call a truce to hostilities Monday while the talks continue in this remote village on the Costa Rican border 140 kilometres south of Managua.

"Today was a fruitful day, and I hope tomorrow will be even better," contra leader Adolfo Calero told a news conference after Tuesday's talks.

However, deep-seated mutual distrust appeared to be keeping the two sides far from a long-term agreement.

Sandinista officials privately expressed concern that the contra might agree to an initial truce to give them time to recharge their forces after a recent Sandinista offensive along the Honduran border.

Contra officials said they were wary of Sandinista reconciliation proposals that might actually be aimed at engineering the rebels' wholesale surrender.

Reagan 'souring' peace prospects

Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, leading the Sandinista negotiating team, accused President Ronald Reagan of souring peace prospects with his appeals for renewed contra aid and said new funding would "only contribute to the most reactionary sectors that don't want peace."

The Sandinista concession on political prisoners appeared to mark a major advance in the talks, as the government had previously agreed to free the estimated 3,300 prisoners, many of them battle-hardened contras, only after the war was over.

The government had also previously insisted that any exiled rebel leaders accept a government offer of amnesty before they could come home.

"These are major steps forward," said an adviser to the Sandinista delegation.

There was no immediate response from the contra forces, but Calero described Tuesday's meeting as "frank, direct and courteous."

Renewed contra aid push

In Washington, Reagan has sought to revive his stalled effort to aid the Nicaraguan contras and said congressional Democrats will be to blame if the supply-starved rebels fade from existence.

In an hour-long meeting on Capitol Hill Tuesday, Reagan appealed to Republican members of the House of Representatives to unite behind a new effort to push through Congress some kind of help for the contras, whose last U.S. aid ran out Feb. 29.

Poll picks Dukakis over Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrat Michael Dukakis would be elected U.S. president over Republican Vice-President George Bush if the election were held now, according to a Washington Post-ABC News public opinion poll.

But while favouring Massachusetts Governor Dukakis now, the voters surveyed for the poll said they still believed a Republican would win when the election was actually held on Nov. 8, the Washington Post said Wednesday.

Even so, it said, the poll suggested for the first time the possibility of a Democratic presidential victory.

The poll followed other surveys showing Dukakis ahead of Bush in Michigan and New York.

The three polls indicated a significant shift from those two



Michael Dukakis

weeks ago that showed Bush well ahead of all other candidates following his wins in 16 of the 17 state primaries held on "Super Tuesday," March 8.

The Washington Post said the new poll indicated Dukakis

would be elected president over Bush with 50 per cent of the vote to Bush's 45 per cent if the election were held now.

ABC had said earlier the poll gave Dukakis a narrow 49-48 per cent lead. There was no immediate explanation why the two news organisations got different figures from the same poll.

The newspaper said three of every five voters surveyed believed a Republican would be elected president on Nov. 8, even though many of them said they would vote for Dukakis rather than Bush if the election were held now.

Primary votes for the delegate-rich states of New Jersey and California are the last big events before Democratic delegates nominate their presidential candidate at a convention in Atlanta in July.

Soviet republics call for end to territorial dispute

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin lined up governments throughout the country Tuesday in a call to end ethnic strife in two Soviet republics, turning up pressure to halt a territorial dispute that has claimed at least 32 lives.

The TASS news agency said the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the nation's largest republic, and equivalent bodies in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia and Uzbekistan called on the national parliament to take firm action.

The move came amid increasingly negative coverage in the official press of a campaign being waged by Armenian activists to annex the predominantly Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is part of neighbouring Azerbaijan, and the reported arrest of a leading Armenian nationalist.

Tamara Grigoryants, wife of Armenian-born dissident Sergei Grigoryants, said in a telephone interview that Paryur Arikyan was arrested Tuesday evening by three policemen in central Mos-

cow after meeting with a Western television journalist.

She said Arikyan was accused of illegally crossing the street, and that he informed her of his arrest by calling from a pay telephone as the policemen stood by. Arikyan said Saturday he had travelled clandestinely to Moscow after his passport was confiscated in Armenia.

The government newspaper Izvestia Tuesday criticised Armenian activists whom it said gathered almost 4,000 people for a meeting in Yerevan on March 19 to devise strategy to press their demands. A day earlier the Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged the Armenians' campaign has a "clear anti-socialist spirit."

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov told a regular news briefing that protests continued in Armenia Sunday and Monday. A nationalist source said Armenians would gather again in their capital of Yerevan on March 26 to decide whether to call a general

strike.

Still too tense

Gerasimov said the situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia still was too tense to allow foreign journalists to travel there.

Arikyan, chairman of an Armenian nationalist group called Alliance for National Determination, said the Pravda article was an indication that authorities would not agree to unite Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, despite appeals from local Communist Party and government officials.

Arikyan once headed an underground Armenian nationalist group called the National Unification Party, and was jailed for 17 years beginning in 1969 for his political activities.

He said Armenian activists in Yerevan claim 78 people were killed in Sumgait. Refusal by central authorities to unite Nagorno-Karabakh would not stop the unrest, he told the news conference. "I think a worse tragedy than Sumgait awaits us," he said.

Burma fire kills 113

RANGOON (R) — A fire devastated the remote northern Burmese hill town of Lashio, killing 113 people and making more than 20,000 homeless as it swept through a jumble of wooden houses.

Rangoon radio said 64 people were injured in the three-hour blaze which started in a private kitchen last Sunday afternoon. Burmese officials said it was the worst single fire accident in the country's history.

The radio report, Tuesday night, was the first official disclosure of the tragedy.

There were no immediate independent reports from the town, which lies in inaccessible forested hills where anti-government guerrillas operate and which is rarely visited by outsiders.

The radio said the fire started in the kitchen of a Chinese national, rapidly spreading through three districts of the town and destroying more than 2,000 buildings, including two schools.

It said many people were trapped because of the speed with which the blaze moved through the tightly-packed houses. High fences and walls around many of the houses blocked escape routes.

The homeless were sheltered in schools and Buddhist monasteries, the radio reported.

Gorbachev: extensive political reform ahead

MOSCOW (R) — A Communist Party conference in June is expected to work out extensive reform of the Soviet political system, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Gorbachev as saying in talks with Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti that his social and economic reform drive had to be made irrevocable through "democratisation from top to bottom" and the promotion of

openness in every way.

"Not everything has yet been worked out," he said, according to TASS. "For instance, at the 19th party conference it will be necessary to busy ourselves with a far-reaching reconstruction of the political superstructure."

The conference, from June 28-30, will be attended by delegates from throughout the country in what Western analysts say is an attempt by Gorbachev to win grass-roots support for his reform drive, known as "perestroika."

U.S. Congress enacts civil rights bill over veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supporters of a civil rights bill enacted over President Ronald Reagan's veto say it will help cure "an epidemic of discrimination" that followed a 1984 Supreme Court decision limiting federal protection for many groups.

"Discrimination in federally funded institutions is occurring at accelerated rates," Congressman Don Edwards, an opposition Democrat, said Tuesday as the House of Representatives joined the Senate in overriding Reagan's

veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

Congress was troubled for four years over how to handle the high court ruling that only specific programmes or activities receiving federal aid had to comply with four major civil rights laws.

Lawmakers finally settled on a restoration act that bars discrimination by entire institutions, government agencies and some corporations that receive any federal aid.

Mitterrand declares war on the Right

By Alan Philips
Reuter

PARIS — France's Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who destroyed the Communists as a major political force in France in the 1970s, set out Wednesday on a new crusade — to demolish the Gaullist Right.

Announcing his candidature for a second seven-year term Tuesday night, the 71-year-old Socialist president said he intended to save France from what he called "intolerant spirits and parties that want everything."

"If private interests, egoist by nature, dominate the country we risk tearing its social fabric," he said.

His declaration of war shocked his two main challengers, Gaullist Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Centrist former prime minister Raymond Barre.

Several commentators saw Mitterrand, who has cultivated an avuncular image for the past two years, transformed back into the fiery opponent of General Charles de Gaulle of the 1960s.

"We expected a low-key Mitterrand," said Serge July, editor

of the independent Left-wing daily Liberation. "Instead we find a turbo-charged candidate."

Mitterrand, standing in his fourth presidential election, left no doubt he sees his only serious challenger as Chirac, dynamic leader of the Neo-Gaullist RPR (Rally for the Republic) Party.

He attacked the rightist programme put into effect by Chirac over the past two years — priva-

und the work of the Socialists over the previous five years.

Despite his loss of power, he has already built up a massive fund of popularity in the coming battle against Chirac. All opinion polls make him the winner in the election, to be held in two rounds on April 24 and May 8.

Mitterrand owes his strength to a decade-long power struggle with the Communists from which his Socialist Party emerged the dominant partner on the left.

If Mitterrand is reelected, he stands a good chance of demolishing the other pillar of French post-war politics — the Gaullist movement now headed by Chirac — and installing moderate Socialism as the natural party of government.

On Tuesday night, Mitterrand avoided pledging to name a Socialist as his prime minister if he is elected for a second mandate.

Analysts interpreted his remarks as indicating he would seek to woo Barre's centrist supporters if — as polls say is increasingly likely — the former prime minister is beaten.

U.S. military exercises to wind down

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. war games in Honduras will start winding down at the weekend, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Tuesday.

The spokesman and Honduran officials could not confirm a report on U.S. television that President Reagan told Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo by telephone the six-day-old "Golden Pheasant" exercise would be phased out beginning at the weekend.

But he said it was safe to assume they would be winding down significantly during the weekend.

The American troops continued war games at four locations, two of them close to the Nicaraguan border.

Azcona told reporters earlier in the day he did not know when the exercise, which has come under fire from opposition parties, would end but he believed it would be soon.



A U.S. serviceman prior to his departure for military exercises in Honduras

Gunman charged in Belfast

BELFAST (AP) — A Protestant gunman who attacked an Irish Republican Army (IRA) funeral was charged Tuesday with murdering six Roman Catholics and declared he was on a lone mission of revenge against the IRA, prosecutors said.

Michael Stone, 33, brought to court under heavy guard, told police his "military operation" was in retaliation for a string of IRA attacks, including a 1984 attempt to assassinate British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at a hotel in Brighton, Eng-

land.

"I alone carried out this military operation as a retaliatory strike against Provisional Sinn Fein, the IRA, in response to the slaughter of innocents at La Mon, Darkley, Brighton and Enniskillen," Stone told police, listing attacks over a decade.

Stone stood silently in the dock through the 10-minute hearing while a police officer testified that he also told detectives:

"I would state I am a dedicated freelance loyalist (Protestant) paramilitary. No surrender."

In Catholic West Belfast, where British authorities ordered a "massive murder investigation" after the killing of two British soldiers during another IRA funeral there Saturday, police threw up road blocks at main roads into the ghetto.

British soldiers, rifles at the ready, patrolled the streets.

Police sources say up to 30 suspects have been identified from an army video taken from a helicopter and screened television footage of Saturday's funeral rampage.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Bangladesh students battle police

DHAKA (R) — Two students were shot dead and at least 100 people were injured when students fought police with bombs and rocks Tuesday in continued protests against strict monitoring during Bangladesh school examinations. Police said they opened fire to disperse students trying to burn down examination centres, killing two people and wounding about 50. At least 50 people, including some policemen, were injured in other battles as students attacked teachers and destroyed examination papers. "This is hell of a situation," said one official at the education ministry.

'Up to 50 guerrillas killed'

COLOMBO (R) — Up to 50 Tamil rebels have been killed in Sri Lanka in recent operations by Indian troops, a senior Indian military officer said in an interview published Wednesday. The state-run Daily News quoted Major-General A.S. Khalkar, deputy commander of Indian troops in Sri Lanka, as saying that the separatist guerrillas suffered heavy casualties in recent operations in Vavuniya in the north. "About 40 to 50 fighters were killed, many wounded and captured... in the raids," Khalkar said. About 5,000 Indian troops launched operations in Vavuniya and adjoining districts two weeks ago to hunt down and disarm the rebels.

Philippine cargo ship capsizes

TOKYO (R) — Twenty-one crewmen were feared dead after a Philippine cargo ship capsized off eastern Japan Tuesday night, marine officials said. One survivor was rescued after the 6,812-tonne Captain Trader capsized 3.5 kilometres off Shioyama, about 300 kilometres north of Tokyo, a Maritime Safety Agency spokesman said. Twelve bodies had been recovered, he added, and patrol boats and helicopters were searching for the nine crew still missing.

UNITA reports killing 34 soldiers

LISBON (AP) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Tuesday it had killed 34 government soldiers and captured arms in

two recent attacks in the north of Angola. UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, said in a statement distributed in Lisbon that two rebels were killed and six wounded in the actions. The rebels said they killed 12 soldiers Saturday when they attacked a military supply column north of the town of Makokola in northwestern Uige province. Rebels killed 22 soldiers in a clash in the northeastern province of Lunda, the statement said. No date was given for the fighting.

Sarney wins critical vote

BRASILIA (R) — Brazilian President Jose Sarney, often dismissed as a lame duck leader, won an important political victory in congress when legislators voted Tuesday to retain the country's strong executive presidency. The vote Tuesday was a major boost for Sarney and the most important political decision in Brazil since the end of the 1964-85 period of military rule. It also marked a serious setback for the majority Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB). Sarney had used all the political influence at his disposal to persuade the assembly to retain the country's presidential system, in force for all but a brief period of Brazil's 99 years as a republic. Advocates of a parliamentary system — with effective power in the hands of a prime minister — had argued that such a reform would strengthen democracy in Brazil.

Bukharin 'readmitted' to Soviet party

MOSCOW (R) — Nikolai Bukharin, a leading Bolshevik executed under Josef Stalin in the 1930s, has been posthumously readmitted to the Soviet Communist Party, East European sources said Tuesday. The sources told Reuters that Bukharin, Alexei Rykov and 18 other defendants shot after a 1938 show trial had been restored to good party standing by an administrative decision taken shortly after their legal rehabilitation early last month. "This is not special for Bukharin. All those rehabilitated with him have been readmitted to the party," the sources said. Soviet officials were not immediately available for comment. Bukharin, a top Bolshevik theorist, became Stalin's leading opponent in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Rykov, a member of the first government after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, also fell foul of Stalin as the dictator launched his party purges.



Developing countries should quit smoking

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) Tuesday urged developing countries to join a campaign against tobacco which it said has already persuaded millions in industrialised nations to quit the smoking. "The counter-attack against tobacco is now under way in the industrialised world," WHO Director-General Dr. Halfdan Mahler said in a press release. Mahler said 5.5 million people in Canada, 10 million in Britain and 40 million in the United States had already given up smoking. He added that the world tobacco industry is now aiming its sales at women, young people and developing nations as more men stop smoking and public opposition to the habit grows. He called on women's organisations to warn against "sexist advertising aimed specifically at women." The WHO, a specialised agency of the United Nations, estimates that about 2.5 million people die every year from diseases related to smoking — lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and heart ailments. It says the habit has spread widely in developing countries. The organisation has banned smoking at its Geneva headquarters, and has set next April 7 as the world's first "no tobacco day."

AIDS policy for workplace

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government has laid down strict anti-discrimination policies to protect government employees with AIDS that may serve as a model for private firms and workers and state and local governments. The new rules prohibit discrimination against AIDS sufferers and allows them to work as long as they are able. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) wrote the guidelines for all government agencies on handling employees with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The rules covering three million non-military federal employees represent nearly a complete turnaround by the Reagan administration. AIDS activists say, "They seem to be very good guidelines," said Urvasi Vaid of the National Gay Rights Task Force, an American umbrella organisation of homosexual groups active in AIDS issues. "We are particularly pleased to see the emphasis placed on education and counselling co-workers," she said.

Cancer linked to family environment

NEW YORK (R) — A Danish study suggests that for some diseases, especially cancer, a family's environment is as important as genes in determining how long a person lives. The study, published in the March 24 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, concludes that deaths before the age of 50 due to certain infections or heart disease are strongly associated with genes. In contrast, deaths from cancer appear to be influenced more by the family environment, the study said, confirming previous research showing a strong correlation between environmental factors, such as smoking, and cancer.

Test-tube baby pioneer dies

CANTERBURY, England (R) — British test-tube baby pioneer Patrick Steptoe has died from cancer at the age of 74, his family announced Tuesday. Steptoe delivered the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, in July 1978. He had been suffering from cancer for a number of years but carried on treating patients until almost the end. His family said he died peacefully Monday evening in the southern city of Canterbury, where he had lived since December. Steptoe laid down the foundations for in vitro fertilisation, now known as the test-tube baby technique and used worldwide to treat a certain kind of infertility.

Police seize grisly documentary

HONG KONG (R) — Roasting birds alive, chopping a cat's tail off, or killing a turtle with boiling water — Hong Kong is considering whether film of this is fit for television. Police seized the film from government-controlled radio television Hong Kong Wednesday on a complaint by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A station spokesman said government censors would study the film to decide if it can be screened in a documentary series about nature and Chinese customs.